

Hon. John A. McDonald: Honourable senators, before this bill is read the third time I have an important request to make of the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Aseltine).

I would ask that between now and the next session the leader request the appropriate minister and officials of the Government to make a study of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act with a view to having its provisions made available to the producers of farm products in the eastern provinces.

As I listened to the discussion on the bill in committee this morning I was more than ever convinced that this act could be made to apply to eastern farmers. I know from personal experience that they have at times suffered the loss of their crops and have not been able to get back anything like their production costs. I cannot see why the eastern farmers could not benefit greatly from the provisions of the act, especially those who produce apples, potatoes, and other fruit and vegetable crops. For example, this year the farmers are suffering greatly with their hay crop; in some instances the crop is poor because of drought, and in other instances the farmers are not able to harvest it in good condition.

Further, I should like to request that the act be studied with a view to extending assistance to eastern farmers in ridding their lands of surplus fresh water. A good work is now being done by the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Administration in its reclamation of some of the best land in Canada, which once was covered by salt water because the aboiteaux and dams had gone out or were in need of repair. However, the good work done in this respect does not help areas in the eastern provinces where the land is waterlogged with fresh water. I think the benefits of this act should be made applicable to eastern farmers.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I shall submit the remarks of my honourable colleague from Kings (Hon. Mr. McDonald) to the proper authorities and ask that they be given careful attention.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

CONGRESS FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, I wish to thank the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) for the good answer that he gave to my good question about the Congress for World Government.

ANIMAL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. George S. White moved the third reading of Bill C-41, to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, on Thursday I was unavoidably absent during part of the sitting when a similar bill was being discussed, and I was very sorry to have to leave the chamber, but I had to do so to pay a last tribute of friendship to a very dear friend of mine who was buried that day. I am not a quitter and I did not want to desert the battlefield. Now, there is one thing I want to stress: it is that I have the highest regard for my colleagues of the Senate and I would be very sorry to be misunderstood by them. Some honourable senators were under the impression that I was pointing my finger at them when I spoke of the trust and loan companies. It was far from my mind to do that, and instead of accusing anybody I took that opportunity to try to defend my colleagues against all wrong imputations that could be made. That is very different. Those matters are serious, and I am glad that the honourable senator from Hanover (Hon. Mr. Brunt) is back in his seat. I could not very well understand his argument that some public legislation should be passed because it is asked for by private companies. He said there were many requests from the trust and loan companies to have the legislation changed.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Is the honourable senator speaking on the third reading of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Oh, is that it? I thought the first item on the Order Paper was for the third reading of a bill to amend the Loan Companies Act.

The Hon. the Speaker: Oh, no; this is an act to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: If it is taken for granted I will not repeat what I have said. Otherwise, I will have to start again.

The Hon. the Speaker: I am afraid that the remarks of the honourable senator are very diseased indeed, but I hope they are not contagious. In any event, I will have to rule them out of order.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: There are many sorts of contagious diseases.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time, and passed.