

on the other side of the House. I remember he disagreed with the hon. member for West York (Sir Henry Drayton) as to the best way of shipping live stock. My hon. friend is familiar with all these facts, and I think he was in sympathy with the attempt of the government to do something by means of that contract. He must therefore give us some credit for at least a desire to improve conditions.

My hon. friend asked a question the other day with regard to further attempts by this government, particularly by myself, to increase the space available. I answered him on that occasion, pointing out that one boat known as the Jensen boat, now rechristened the Ontario, held more cattle on its initial trip than those four mercantile marine boats combined. This boat had a most successful trip, probably the most successful of any boat on the Atlantic during those terrible storms. That is as far as we have gone; we cannot do everything at once. We hope to be here for several sessions to clean up a lot of the things which require attention and which we have not yet caught up with. I am sympathetic with the ambitions of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins), but Rome was not built in a day, and all these wrongs or grievances cannot be corrected in a day. I think we are headed in the right direction, however, and I enlist the co-operation of the hon. member for Marquette in improving conditions as opportunities present themselves.

Mr. MULLINS: Mr. Speaker, we have had promises, promises and promises, and none of them have been fulfilled. Western Canada and the country as a whole are tired of promises. The hon. gentleman knows the correspondence which has been going on. We want action; we want something done which will give us redress in connection with ocean freight rates. The trade cannot stand a rate of \$20 per head.

The hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) stated that I made insurrections at the grain growers of western Canada. I refute that statement. I am upholding the cattle industry; it is the leading industry; it stands out more and is based on sounder principles than are the activities of the man who is just mining the soil, a soil robber is a menace to the western country. If a man is not in mixed farming he is usually a failure. The sowless, cowless, chickenless farmer of the west! I made that statement before in speaking on this subject, and I make it again. A man cannot be successful in western Canada without live stock. If you go back far enough in

history you will find that we would have very little of the group system and very few Progressives if it were not for the dissatisfied settler who has been producing weeds on the western prairies. He has become so dissatisfied with raising weeds and mining the soil that he is ready to join any old party at all. They have two or three new parties in the west now, which the government will have to contend with if they hold office. There is a party called the Farmers' Union, and there is still another which I have been invited to join. In time you will have the group system, with no stable government at all.

With all due respect to my hon. friend I have everything in common with the man on the land out west. Politics have never played a part and will never play a part, so far as I am concerned, in matters affecting the interests of the man on the land. I came here with an open mind, ready to support the government in getting a reduction of ocean rates, at the instigation of one of the leaders of the Progressive party, the right bower of the Hon. Mr. Crerar. I refer to Mr. Rice Jones, who requested me to come and give evidence in regard to freight rates. I had some experience in negotiating with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) in trying to get a reduction in freight rates. I took the Canadian government boat Victor, whose freight rates were supposed to be \$25 per space. I took her, it is true, because she was the only boat available out of the port, and I had to go to Dundee. I did not want to go to Dundee, but it was all I could get. I asked the minister if he would get a rate of \$20, which the conference and the other regular liners were charging, but it was impossible. I was being charged \$25 per space and I was compelled to take the boat, because the cattle were ready on my ranch and I had to ship them to market. The minister wired me and said that on account of going to another port the rate had to be \$25. I did not like to crowd the cattle on that ship; they were heavy cattle and I could not put five cattle in four spaces. The capacity of the Victor is 233 spaces, and I was compelled to pay for 270 spaces at \$25 per space, which was a gross injustice, for which I was never able to get any redress from the hon. gentleman. I could not do anything. So I was ready to come and support the government in an endeavour to do something in the right direction; I was ready to come to this committee and lend my support to it. But what was the result of that investigation? What did it cost the country? The man behind the investigation was that gentleman who has been in politics since I was a boy in West