

they neglected to give those forms of encouragement which they knew were necessary in order to stimulate production in Canada. The attitude which they took in their heart of hearts would be the normal attitude of men in their circumstances. Their attitude would be: We will trust to Providence that it will work out all right because we cannot do any better anyway on account of financial restrictions.

Just to show that what I am saying is not out of line with what is thought by sober-minded men, let me give a quotation from the submission made by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to the government only this year. I read from page 7, under the heading "Dairying":

A satisfactory price for dairy products sufficient to induce production is necessary.

The clear implication is that there is no such satisfactory price at the present time. Again:

The price control policy, mitigated by subsidizing on a very piecemeal basis—

You see what the farmers think of the means which the minister has so far used:

—has created uncertainty and anxiety with regard to the future. Assurance should be given that subsidies when given will continue for a reasonable time to give stability to the industry.

I believe that that statement regarding the dairy industry applies in greater or less degree to every branch of agriculture in Canada. Even those who are producing hogs at most attractive prices and those who are producing beef at most attractive prices are filled with anxiety if the question arises whether they should purchase a choice sire, which might entail an outlay of one thousand or fifteen hundred dollars, to increase the quality of the calves they are raising, with the hope that in two or three years those calves will be old enough to sell. That anxiety tends to make them let their stock run down, and that is all to the detriment of production in this country.

A great many more men would labour in agriculture if they were assured of a living. I have two letters here which I shall read, but before doing so may I make this general comment? I believe we have a tremendous capacity in Canada for singling out and emphasizing the wrong thing. So much stress is laid to-day upon the shortage of labour. That is something which cannot be overcome now by recalling men from the armed forces or from war industries. Instead, stress should be placed upon prices and wages which would tend to alleviate agricultural conditions by drawing into the industry people who dare not come in now on account of the low

remuneration. One of these letters is from the far east and the other from the far west, and evidently both are written by good men. The first one comes from Moncton, New Brunswick. If some one asks me to name the writer of this letter, if I am called upon to do so I shall do so, but I hope that no one will invoke the rules of the house because I would prefer not to give this man's name. The letter is right here, and anyone can see it. It is dated March 2, 1943, and reads:

Dear Sir,

About all you see in the papers and hear over the radio these days is what our wonderful government intends to do "when the war is over."

What about now, when thousands are idle and in want and cannot get work anywhere? The labour department says "shortage of man-power." Where? Winnipeg paper says 8,000 idle there, and that applies to all over Canada. Personally I have tried several times this year to get work but employment and selective offices say "no work." I am past military age and strictly temperate and offered to accept any suitable job but answer is always "no work." It is about time they changed the head of the labour department and put a real man in who will help win the war.

Would appreciate your opinion on the above letter.

Thanking you and wishing you every success, I am, sir—

This man tells me in his letter that he is a consulting specialist on all classes of brick, stone, tile and concrete masonry. Whom does he blame? He is blaming the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell). Who is to blame? The Minister of Finance? Not the Minister of Finance, but the financial system under which he is working.

Let me read another one now. This comes from Taber, Alberta. This man had written to me to see if I could find him a job. He is a returned man from this war. I had told him I was having difficulty in finding a job for him. He replies:

Your letter of February 17 received for which I thank you. In regard to where I stand with the selective service office in Lethbridge I will state I have been registered with them ever since shortly after I left the army on October 10, 1942. I have asked to be placed on different jobs if they came up such as grain buyer or a plant guard at the Trail Smelter, etc., but to date they have not been able to line up anything. Once when I was in there I showed them an application I had filled out applying to the civil service in Ottawa for a position in a government elevator or terminal, and they said "that's fine," for me to send it in by all means, so as far as they are concerned I can accept the first position offered me. I was becoming desperate for a job and that is the reason I have taken the matter of a position up with you as I figured I would get quicker action and better results through you than waiting for the Lethbridge office to get me something. The veterans' welfare officer in Calgary has worked