

*Farm Prices*

If the industry organizes and presents to the department the true wishes of the farmers, we can look forward to the future with every confidence. I believe that the farmers themselves can solve many of their problems through self-imposed controls. But I do urge again that in the period following the war we should be bold and courageous in our planning, and take full advantage of the lessons the war has taught us.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with not a little interest to the remarks of the hon. member who has just taken his seat. The faith he has expressed in the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) is, I fancy, the kind of faith that members of a political party have when a minister makes the kind of remarks he made.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That is a lame—

Mr. GRAYDON: Now, I wonder if the official interrupter will kindly keep quiet for a few minutes. I want to bring one or two things to the attention of the house. The first is that I believe the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Cleaver) perhaps unconsciously expressed a feeling which has been prevalent in his part of Ontario and in other parts of Canada when he attempted in his own way to deal with criticisms which for some considerable time have been directed against government policy. I think however that he did not over-emphasize in any way the criticisms which are abroad—criticisms which I believe any hon. member would be able to describe very freely so far as this government's policy in agriculture is concerned. But when he spoke about the qualifications of the Minister of Agriculture, stating that the minister was a westerner who had been born on an Ontario farm, he unconsciously, again, uttered a small word of recommendation respecting a man in the public life of Canada, who comes within the category my hon. friend has described, a man whom we propose to make the prime minister of this country so that for the first time we would have a farmer prime minister. I refer to the Hon. John Bracken. The qualifications which my hon. friend from Halton unconsciously gave as being very good ones for a man in public life are the ones found in the present national leader of our party.

Mr. MUTCH: He lacks one quality—a seat in the house.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps you have supported your party so long that you find yourself in a difficult position.

Mr. MUTCH: He was always hard to elect.

[Mr. Cleaver.]

Mr. GRAYDON: In this debate we have heard a good deal about agriculture. There are many farmers throughout Canada to-day—and I think rightly so—who feel that it is time in Canada that we had a farmer prime minister. We are very proud, and perhaps at times we might be given to just a little bit of boasting—because in the midst of what goes on across the way it is not noticed—

Mr. WRIGHT: I would like to ask where he ever farmed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. GRAYDON: Well, most of the desk-thumping has been done by lawyers so far as I can see.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): And who is speaking?

Mr. GRAYDON: I would like to be allowed to answer the question, although I know the answer would not be very satisfactory to my hon. friend.

Mr. WRIGHT: I would like—

Mr. GRAYDON: Now you keep quiet. In answer to the hon. member for Melfort, the Hon. John Bracken, unlike so many others who have interrupted from time to time, has never been in any other line of endeavour than agriculture, except while he was premier of Manitoba. John Bracken himself is now an operating farmer in Ontario. He came from an Ontario farm, worked on an Ontario farm, took up farming as a vocation. I fancy there is no one in Canada who has been better schooled in that profession.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): And he will be on the farm a long time, too.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is the official interrupter going to have to be silenced again? Because after all there is a limit to usurpation of privileges: Of course he has his eye on the Clerk's job, I know, but for the present I wish he would listen to me.

I would say to the hon. member for Melfort that he has asked a question I am glad to answer. I was hoping someone would give me an opportunity to put upon the record the facts with respect to one man in public life in Canada to-day. He is the man, as I say, thoroughly familiar with farming in Canada—

Mr. WRIGHT: But he never farmed.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I have some order, please?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Why is he not here?

Mr. GRAYDON: The interrupter is busy again.