

wipes out the wheat crop; does my hon. friend argue that the government should subsidize those farmers to the extent of 28 per cent? My hon. friend who represents that county is a good business man, a level-headed, practical man; he will understand very well the fallacy of this kind of argument. I have too much confidence in the industry, the thrift and the resourcefulness of the people of the county of Lambton to believe that they are going to be ruined because the government refuses to pay them a subsidy of \$42,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I suggest to the minister that he start and multiply over again. He will find that he is away out both in his multiplication and in his percentages.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: \$442,000 is the figure.

Mr. ROBB: Now, I will give the right hon. leader of the opposition another thought. We had a speech this afternoon from a gentleman who was formerly one of his colleagues, a member of his government. It will be recalled that in the early days after the budget was brought down it was argued from that side that this budget was going to ruin the agricultural implement industry, was going to put them out of business. But this afternoon a former colleague of the leader of the opposition tells us that the agricultural implement manufacturers are better off to-day than they ever were before.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister is as badly out on his facts as on his multiplication. After the last of his many budgets brought down, nobody ever said that any more. He kept shifting the burden from one to the other until finally he had it all off the agricultural implement people.

Mr. ROBB: Who is it on now?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is on the suppliers, just as the hon. member said this afternoon, and where the minister well knows it is.

Mr. ROBB: I suppose my hon. friend will argue it is on the steel men. Well, we have the statement of the steel men published in the Montreal Star, a paper that is not too friendly to this government, to the effect that prospects for the steel industry of Canada were quite bright.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What has been done for them?

Mr. ROBB: Whatever has been done for them, they are not ruined.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I suppose it has been shifted to somebody else.

[Mr. Robb.]

Mr. ROBB: I have the statement of the director of one of the steel companies of Canada not later than Friday last—he told me in confidence in my office—that the steel industry of Canada was in a better position than the steel industry of the United States.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Was it at the recent meeting that the minister attended in Montreal that he heard that statement? I heard a very different report.

Mr. ROBB: No. It was a gentleman who called the following day to apologize for that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Better give the name, I think.

Mr. LeSUEUR: May I ask the Acting Minister of Finance if he thinks his comparison quite fair between rust in the western provinces and the bounty? Rust in a crop is a matter of one year. It does not destroy the ground or the possibility of reaping a crop the next year, but the taking off of the bounty, on the facts as we have them, means the absolute elimination of this industry, with no comeback.

Mr. ROBB: I have said to my hon. friend that we have subsidized this industry for now twenty years, and the subsidy is not altogether being removed as was represented; it is being cut in two. It goes along from the 1st of July this year until the 1st of July 1925 at one-half the previous subsidy. I repeat here in parliament what I said to the operators of these wells, that we propose to look into the claims presented to us. I submit to my hon. friend again that an industry of that nature is surely not going to be ruined by taking away from them, on their own statement, only something like \$42,000.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I must ask the House to approve the third reading of the bill now before it. It seems to me we have had ample time to consider carefully all the details of this budget. I was glad this evening to have almost the admission from my right hon. friend that it is not so bad as when it first came down. That is something anyway.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not say that at all. Would the minister be good enough and frank enough with the House to give us the name of this secret informant of his? The information is not of much value, of course, unless we know the name. This is the practice of the government always, to give the information, and the authority for it they cannot possibly divulge.