

Mr. BOYER: (Translation.) I hope the hon. member will rid himself of that habit into which he has fallen of continually and recklessly offering suggestions. He should abide by past experience. Once more, agricultural fairs are under the control of the local governments, the Dominion government has nothing at all to do with them.

If district and county exhibitions were under the control of the Dominion Government, I would give him this warning: Before venturing to offer grants, however good your motive in doing so, see to it that the moneys which you are about to distribute are spent so as to give the results which you anticipate. Indeed, the slightest acquaintance with the manner in which things are managed in connection with some of these district exhibitions throughout the country will convince one that they are mere business ventures subsidized by the Dominion or provincial governments. Then again, a large number of those county exhibitions are in no sense whatever doing the practical illustration work to which the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères referred, and young men do not congregate there to obtain inspiration from the achievements of their elders. They are rather an annual meet for amateurs of horse-racing and other various sports which agricultural societies allow on their grounds. I myself visited last year in the province of Quebec agricultural fairs which were agricultural in name only, and were nevertheless attended by thousands.

Mr. RAINVILLE: (Translation.) Not in Chambly-Verchères.

Mr. BOYER: (Translation.) That may be. Chambly-Verchères is already in a pretty bad plight. The hon. member will pardon me but I am not enthusiastic as regards exhibitions. I say again that I would rather favour a measure whereby our parliament would assist in establishing model farms throughout the country, and give field demonstrations. Exhibitions give satisfactory results, provided they are properly managed, and some counties profit immensely through them. But to ensure such results in every case, a campaign would have to be carried on by the provincial governments with the assistance of practical farmers, so as to find out what is the cause of the unrest prevailing and apply the proper remedy.

The hon. gentleman from Chambly and Verchères deplores the exodus of the country people towards the cities. He is certainly right, and in this connection he quoted the following verse:

Remettez en honneur le soc de la charrue;
Repeuplez la campagne au dépens de la rue;

Grevez d'impôts la ville et dégrevez les champs,
Ayez moins de bourgeois et plus de paysans.

The hon. gentleman designates as place seekers the country people who flock to the cities. But if he really wished to detect the reason for this exodus, we would not be long in ascertaining what it is. If the country is deserted, farm houses abandoned, left untilled, it is an easy matter for him to discover why. Let him go through the factories in Montreal, for instance, he will see that ninety per cent of the hands have come from the country places. Industries and the various municipal services have appealed to the country for more labour. It seems that salaries are higher there and the exodus has begun and continues in the absence of any counteracting influences.

The hon. gentleman grew enthusiastic yesterday over the country's wealth, its immense industrial possibilities, and then turning around he wept over the sad fate of the farmer. He might properly have insisted on the immense fortunes accumulated by manufacturers, through the dogged labour of those country people who have given up the plough shares to confine themselves in factories. Excessive protection by enriching manufacturers has impoverished the country folks. In the first place, it made farm labour scarcer; and then, through excessive duties on the necessities of life, it made life dearer to them.

In 1911, the Liberal government submitted to the people an equitable measure towards correcting the evil, I mean reciprocity. Now, would not that hon. member, who worries over the fate of these humble workers, have been more consistent if at the time he had sided with the farming community? He might then have parodied the verses he quoted in the following manner:

Remettez en honneur la base de la nation;
Repeuplez la campagne au dépens de la protection,
Grevez d'impôts la ville et dégrevez les champs,
Ayez moins de millionnaires et plus de paysans.

Sir, while I am on my feet, I am anxious to inform the House of the infamous practices I have been the witness of during the Macdonald by-election. Indeed, I am one of the poor victims who almost left their bones in that constituency. I had been invited to take a hand in that election. I proceeded thereto in a very peaceful mood. I was there as a free citizen in a free country, and believing I had the right in that part of Canada to emit untrammelled my political views before the electors of Macdonald.

I had gone into that constituency to support Mr. Richardson, who was the recipro-