

their surplus products. If the proposed legislation provides for the setting up of something in the nature of a marketing board, I am sure this will be welcomed by the agricultural industry. But in Canada to-day we are faced with something more than that; we are confronted with the problem of orderly marketing within our own country. It is, I think, generally believed that co-operative marketing, while it has effected many improvements, has failed to accomplish all that it was expected to do. The failure of cooperative marketing has been due to a tendency on the part of a comparatively few producers to refuse to cooperate, and to such producers seeking to take advantage of the better conditions generally brought about by the co-operative organizations. In other words, 100 per cent of voluntary cooperation amongst farmers has proved to be impossible. The breaking down of orderly marketing within our province has been disastrous to the dairy and fruit industries. The dairy industry in the Fraser valley, to put it mildly, is in a demoralized condition. Milk is being produced at less than cost of production and this situation naturally cannot continue much longer or many farmers will be forced off their farms, compelled to sacrifice their stock and seek relief. Engaged in this industry there are 4,000 farmers with 60,000 head of dairy stock representing an investment at present day prices of \$25,000,000. These men are now looking for government action to save the industry from ruin. Such conditions are not confined to British Columbia. Those of us who last year sat on a committee which investigated the dairy industry are quite aware of this fact. The demand now comes from, not 50 per cent, but 90 per cent of the producers of our province for compulsory legislation. Canadian farmers, speaking through their respective organizations, point out that such legislation has been granted by the British parliament to the farmers of Great Britain; it has also been provided for the farmers of the United States and our farmers believe that they should be granted similar legislation and powers. It has been pointed out that the compulsory legislation in British Columbia was successful until declared ultra vires in 1931 by the privy council. It is claimed that if it were in force to-day in that province it would increase the purchasing power of the Fraser valley dairymen by at least \$500,000 a year without raising the price to the consuming public.

I want to make it quite clear that these producers fully realize that legislation such as

[Mr. Barber.]

the British Marketing Act does not come under the jurisdiction of the federal parliament, but that owing to our set-up of government comes under the jurisdiction of the legislatures of the various provinces. Owing to the ruling of the privy council, however, it is felt that in order to make such legislation sound it will be necessary that something in the nature of enabling legislation be passed by the federal parliament. It is to be hoped, following the conference with the provinces and while the present legislation is under consideration, that some satisfactory arrangement may be made between the governments in order to afford relief to these industries.

There is one other matter on which I should like to touch, but before proceeding to do so may I say that I have just noticed in the speech from the throne some mention of relief camps. During past sessions we heard considerable criticism of the camps operated in the province of British Columbia. I have made it my business to visit these camps occasionally, and I wish to say that I have heard many compliments from different parts of the district with regard to the manner in which the Department of National Defence has conducted these camps. I have discussed matters with the men in the camps. They appeared satisfied and they paid many compliments to those in charge.

We are pleased to note in the speech from the throne the suggestion that some program of public works be undertaken. I do not believe the people of Canada expect this country to launch a very extensive scheme, certainly nothing to compare with that undertaken in the nation to the south. We do believe, however, that this is the opportune time to introduce something of this nature in order that private industry may be stimulated and more and more people brought back to employment.

One other matter which remains to be dealt with is the question of the central bank. Those of us who have been here during the past two or three sessions will remember that there have been demands from practically every corner of the house for legislation of this nature. The world economic conference decreed that every developed country should have a central bank to facilitate international credit and currency action. Since last session the government has had the project examined by a body of experts, and I think all will agree that the royal commission which was constituted last fall was well chosen. Their sittings in all parts of the country were notable for the freedom with which all possible evidence was received and for the patience