

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

I must hurry on as my time is almost up. I have here a voucher sent to me by a farmer in my district who lives fifteen miles from the city of Yorkton. He killed four steers and brought their hides to market, one hundred and sixty-eight pounds of hides. The best price he could get for these hides was one and a half cents per pound, and he could not even get cash for that. Here is the voucher, and I place these facts in all sincerity before my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir). The credit side of the voucher shows 168 pounds of hides at 1½ cents per pound, \$2.52; the debit side shows one pair of rubbers, \$1.00; overalls \$1.25; tobacco, 25 cents; credit, 2 cents. And yet the Minister of Agriculture states that mixed farming is the hope of the west.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Would my hon. friend mind giving any authority at all for that statement?

Mr. McPHEE: Does my hon. friend deny that he made the statement?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I never made the statement.

Mr. McPHEE: I wish to be fair. I find this in the Winnipeg Tribune and also in the Ottawa Journal:

Toronto, February 1.—Mixed farming west's hope, claims Weir.

My hon. friend has a very efficient secretary, and if he has not brought this to the attention of the minister, I will pass the clipping over to him as I have not time to read it now, and then to-morrow he can deny it if he wishes.

Hon. gentlemen opposite now as ever claim that the present hard times have been brought about by influences other than those arising from the actions of this government. A few days ago I was going through Hansard to read the budget speeches of the various Ministers of Finance during the past fifteen or twenty years. Here is one striking passage from the benediction pronounced by Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance in the government of the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, and delivered after ten years of Conservative government in Canada under Sir Robert Borden and the Right Hon. Mr. Meighen. In the last budget speech delivered by a Conservative Minister of Finance previous to 1921, Sir Henry Drayton paints this picture in his peroration of May 9, 1921.

The world is sadly out of tune. May we help in restoring harmony. Trust and confidence are sadly lacking. Class interests are

[Mr. McPhee.]

advanced with selfish insistence. Unemployment is with us. Faith in our fellowmen is weakened. Doubt of the future is often voiced.

Those words, Mr. Speaker, are applicable to the present day. But listen. The next two lines are gems:

The sun still shines, the rivers still sparkle, our lands are as great and fruitful as ever—our resources just as vast.

Thank Heaven, Mr. Speaker, that the sun still shines and that the rivers still sparkle on their way to the sea. Thank Heaven that this government, and especially the right hon. gentleman who leads it, has nothing to do with the shining of the sun, because if he had, and he used the same mad-bull-in-a-china-shop methods with regard to things celestial as he does with respect to trade terrestrial there would be chaos in the firmament and darkness would be over the land.

My parting word, Mr. Speaker, as an elected representative in this house would be this: Let the government get off the backs of the farmers of Canada; let them get away from the stifling of trade, and then this great country will take its place among the nations of the earth that God Almighty intended it should take, by virtue of the almost illimitable natural resources that have been placed at our disposal.

Mr. ONESIME GAGNON (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the speech made by the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. McPhee), but I fail to see any connecting link between the legislation now before the house and butter or wheat. The hon. member has intimated that butter had something to do with our coming into power. That may be. I say however that the bread we are now giving to the poor through the legislation before the house will keep us in power.

I have listened with care to the speeches made by my hon. friends opposite, and I regret to say I have not been struck by their extreme moderation. This debate has lasted more than a week, and I am sorry to note that many hon. members have indulged in personal attacks against the leader of the government. May I, Mr. Speaker, pass in review some of the very pleasant compliments paid by hon. members opposite to the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues. The hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) has referred to monkeys, and the hon. member for Québec East (Mr. Lapointe) and ten or eleven of his followers have referred to the régime of the French revolution and have called our leader a despot and an autocrat. Last but not least the hon. member for Mel-