

Farm Credit Act

Mr. Chairman, that is where we have been led by the despicable monetary system we are forced to use.

Our good friends in the old parties remind me of the galley slaves in centuries past. Their slavery has become a way of life, to the point where they now lack the strength to look up and see the immense potential of their country. That means, Mr. Chairman, that we do not have even the hope of a true agricultural reform in our country.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, in the agricultural field, even more maybe than in any other, we have our own financiers. Let us not look in other countries to find the cause of our present problem; let us look at home first.

First they started by grabbing a bag of potatoes, a bag of carrots, one of wheat, then two, three, ten, twenty . . . and this was not serious in the eyes of our small profiteers. But today we have come to the point where they get more money out of the product than the producer himself. And that is precisely at this stage that the situation has become critical for our farming industry. The little financiers of yesterday have become so important that there is nothing left for the producers. And rest assured that the people know it today because we have kept them informed. Besides, I am not concerned about the fate of our Canadian financiers, past or present, because "their country has served them well".

However, if we must choose the lesser of two evils and if we persist in refusing to use the numerous facilities of the Bank of Canada in agricultural matters, which would allow the farmers to get credit instead of getting into debt, we encourage increases of the amounts made available to the Farm Credit Corporation—or even better, of our agricultural debts. But we, from the province of Quebec, claim at least the right to get into debt on a comparable degree with the citizens of other provinces.

And to do so it will be necessary to lower the floor in order to promote the development of our family farms.

We are maybe unique but it must be recognized that we are neither socialists nor government control supporters. We believe in the family industry; we believe in the family farm, and we shall never go for the collective farms Moscow style.

In order to promote family farming in Quebec, the minimum loans should be at least \$2,000.

We are absolutely convinced, however, that if our farmers were getting fair prices, under an agreement with the western provinces, very small loans only would be needed to support their efforts.

Therefore, instead of granting only a few large loans for the benefit of only one small group of farmers, the government should put small loans at the disposal of all farmers who wish to improve their family farms.

Mind you, Mr. Chairman, it is not necessarily the few hundred industrial farmers who need those loans, but rather those who by the hundreds must abandon their farms each year, because governments gave more thought to the rich financiers than to the common man. We suggest, in addition to that, that all those small loans be granted without interest, that is at cost.

The former governments disregarded seriously their duties by letting those courageous farmers perish.

Since coming to the house, I have been wondering whether the members favourable to financiers outnumber those who favour our farmers. And yet we were all elected by the people and for the people.

I admit that many members of the old parties did not show their true faces to their electors. We have had proof of it these last few days. While we were discussing certain resolutions dealing with important improvements for our agriculture in Quebec, resolutions entirely favourable to Quebec farmers, we saw the great protectors of finance rise in all their dignity to kill those motions in the bud, without permitting them to see daylight. That is why I declare that as long as financiers control the destiny of our agriculture, we shall have to suffer the logical consequences: debts.

After all that, do not wonder any more why the people voted Social Credit. But do show resoluteness right away because the next time the people will vote in the Social Credit to obtain a new deal for agriculture.

Agriculture is the basis of our economy, the same as the citizen, the worker, the farmer are the basis of our society; and this worker, this farmer, can only find security and freedom in Social Credit.

When Social Credit policies are implemented we will then see a return to the family farm type of operation, with the small homesteader surrounded by his nice large Canadian family. Then will we prove to the face of the earth that it is not the big trusts but the community of large families living in peace and justice which make for a great nation.