

figures as to such cost, for the simple reason that there is a great variety of farming, and many of those engaged in it are not very competent. In other words, they should not be farming at all, as they have neither the taste nor the ability to do the job as it should be done. Consequently no Government can figure on making farming a profitable business for all engaged in it.

That being the case, the purpose of this Bill is that the farmer who has a good crop shall contribute something towards his fellow farmer who has had the misfortune of a crop failure, in order that out of this common fund and out of funds added to it by the Government he shall receive sufficient to enable him to carry on. Sixty per cent of this assistance will be paid in December and 40 per cent in March, in the expectation that the December payment will help the farmer and his family through the winter and the March payment will enable him to purchase the necessary seed grain for the following year.

It is argued by some persons that large tariff reductions on the commodities which the farmer has to buy would be the easiest way of compensating him. But we know it is very difficult to reduce tariffs. I remember reading, when I was a boy, a speech delivered in Glasgow by the late Earl Rosebery, and I have never forgotten his reference to tariffs. At that time the subject of protection was under discussion in Britain, and, referring to it, he said it was often remarked that March came in like a lamb and went out like a lion; but protection came in like a lamb, grew like a lion, and never went out at all. I do not think there is any doubt about the correctness of that statement.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: We all know that once protection is given to certain industries they are able to show in one way or another that they cannot continue if any part of it is taken away.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: They are first helped as infant industries, but they always remain in infancy.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: My right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) at one time stated in the House of Commons that if the industries had remained infants he would have a good deal of sympathy for them, but he thought they had grown considerably at that time.

I think we are forced now to this position, that if everybody else is to be protected, and the farmer cannot be protected, we should at least stand between him and the calamities that beset him on the prairies of Western Canada. If we get a few good crop

years in Western Canada, and we shall if there is sufficient rainfall, the fund to be established by the 1 per cent deduction from the purchase price of grain will soon form a tidy reserve, and will help to relieve the situation in a bad year.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: It is an annual tax, no matter whether there is an emergency or not?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Yes. The tax is 1 per cent on all grain delivered at elevators. This in one particular will suit my honourable friend from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins), because the man who feeds his grain will not pay this tax. It is only when he markets his grain at the elevator that he has to pay the 1 per cent. This is quite equitable, for he is taking so much fertility out of the soil and putting it on the market, and therefore ought to make some contribution to help his unfortunate brother farmer who that year has a crop failure.

I intend to move, when this Bill has been given second reading, that it be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, where each clause can be gone into thoroughly. I do not wish to delay the House any longer, and therefore I now move that the Bill be given second reading.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, my chief objection to this Bill is that it gives a bonus to the poor farming districts of the West.

It is difficult to discuss this measure without at the same time discussing a sister bill which the Minister of Trade and Commerce has introduced in the Commons, but which has not yet reached this House. I refer to the bill to fix the price of wheat at 70 cents a bushel.

Now, let me put the House straight. This Bill really has nothing to do with bonusing agriculture. The underlying principle of the Bill is to place a 1 per cent tax on all grain delivered at the elevator, so that over a period of years a fund will be built up to take care of the payments to be made under the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: To the unfortunate ones.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It is to become effective on the first of August, 1939. To judge from the reports I get from the West, conditions are not good, and this is going to be an emergency year. True, there is as yet no money in the fund, but in time payments will be met from the collections under the Bill.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: But will they?