

The Address—Mr. Dorion

There is at the present time a pernicious propaganda being conducted, which in my opinion is unfair to dairy products. According to that propaganda, it is increasingly held that dairy products absorbed in some quantity by the consumer are liable to induce certain disabilities, certain difficulties capable of endangering his health. Quite fortunately, another school of thought in the medical profession has made itself heard and is attempting to put a stop to those so-called theories which have been advanced only in recent years.

How can we solve that overproduction problem? Should we discourage the producer? I do not believe so, and here are the reasons why I am led to suspect the kind of propaganda that is being carried on throughout the country.

I repeat that the government, at the suggestion of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, is seeking solutions which should soon be defined and implemented.

The idea of a food bank expressed by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Diefenbaker) is making some headway. The United Nations Organization is considering such a thing. I am convinced that the establishment of such a food bank would facilitate the disposal of certain goods presently in storage.

In Switzerland, the same problem exists. And I should like here to quote the opinion expressed by Messrs. Shefrin and Manzius of the federal Department of Agriculture.

It may be significant in this regard that a country like Switzerland should have found more appropriate to consider giving dairy products each year to underfed countries rather than proceeding to a difficult and costly readjustment of its agricultural industry through a decrease or increase in production.

Besides, those learned experts foresee at the same time that the total consumption of foodstuffs will increase by 70 per cent and that the sale of such goods will double in Canada during the next 20 years. A provident government should not be afraid of temporary difficulties when the future looks so brilliant.

Another problem which also interests eastern Canada, particularly the constituency of Bellechasse, is the hog breeding industry. Farmers are happy about the stabilization act under which the price of hogs was recently fixed at \$23.65 per hundredweight up to a maximum of 100 head and under which a three dollar premium was added last year for class A. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the average market price of hogs last year reached \$27.50 per hundredweight.

[Mr. Dorion.]

An hon. Member: Why was it not stabilized at \$23?

Mr. Dorion: Since my time is very limited, if the hon. member agrees, I shall answer his question at the end of my remarks.

Through that policy, it has been possible to reduce hog production without affecting 90 per cent of Canadian breeders. It prevented the accumulation of an ever increasing hog surplus. It clearly cuts the ground from under the feet of certain profiteers who were sabotaging the financial assistance legislation to farmers.

It has made possible the improvement of hog production to the extent that we are able to maintain our sales on the American market, even though the embargo was lifted last year and Canadian hogs sell at a higher price than American hogs. To show the value of this legislation, may I quote from a brief submitted to the cabinet on February 29, 1960, by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Our last annual and general meeting has again reaffirmed the general principles behind our price support policy. This policy takes into account the following principles: generally speaking, it is desirable to support the prices at the level of the market through direct purchase by the State; the support prices must not create cumbersome surpluses; confused situations must be avoided in agriculture, and we recognize the deficiency payments method which should be applied when the producers believe that this formula, or a combination of direct purchase and deficiency payments, is the best approach.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I shall turn, as I always do, to the needs of the county which I represent in this house. There is a third point, which bears on the rehabilitation and development of rural areas and it is, I believe, another step towards the economic restoration of our Quebec farmers.

The percentage of farms having an annual production of less than \$1,200 amounts to 28 per cent in the whole country. In Bellechasse, two thirds of the farms draw most of their income from the forest.

This legislation will surely help to improve the situation and brighten living conditions on our farms. In this legislation, I should like to quote the opinion of an expert, who was deputy minister of agriculture in Quebec and who is still employed by the provincial government, Mr. Albert Rioux. This is what he said as reported by *La voix nationale* in August 1961:

It is with a view to boosting the economy of the underdeveloped rural areas that the federal parliament has just passed a legislation on rural development. This legislation provides for all projects capable of raising the standard of living