

*Supply—Mr. Gauthier*

Chapais of Quebec; the second, Hon. C. Dinkin, from Brome, P.Q.; the third, a Quebecker also, Hon. J. H. Pope; the fourth, a senator, Hon. Letellier de St-Just; the fifth, also a Quebecker, Hon. C. A. P. Pelletier; the sixth, from Ontario; the seventh, from Quebec; the eighth, from Ontario. And so it was, by turn, until up to about 50 years ago. I notice that among those ministers, several were bilingual. It is not the first time, therefore, that we have a bilingual Minister of Agriculture. But one fact cannot be overlooked. In the last half of the century, when we had for the first time a minister of agriculture from British Columbia, the western provinces never stopped supplying ministers of agriculture. There are ministers from British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

We have not had, in the last 50 years, the opportunity of having a minister of agriculture from Quebec in the federal government. If, during the last 50 years, the ministers who came from the west worked mainly for western interests, we are going to put up a fight so that our eastern minister, while he works in Ontario's interest, does not forget the province of Quebec.

● (9:10 p.m.)

Indeed, the last 50 years were what I would call the half century of wheat. Ministers of agriculture only had ears for wheat, ministers of trade and commerce only had eyes for wheat. All in all, Canadian agriculture during the last 50 years can be summed up in one single word: Wheat. And we still hear the members from Saskatchewan complain, like the one who has just resumed his place, along with those from the west in general; yet, for 40 years now, we have been paying for those provinces, we have deprived, we have bled ourselves for them and they still have not had enough. And hear the questions which are being asked even today:

Will we be able to sow? Will that wheat grow? Will it ripen? Will we be able to reap it? Will we get paid? And so on.

It will have to be understood, Mr. Speaker, that there are other farm products in Canada and that the Minister of Agriculture, as well as the Minister of Trade and Commerce, must concern themselves with the diversified farm products of the province of Quebec. In my opinion, those products deserve special consideration from our new Minister of Agriculture.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

I will mention only one category, dairy products. I think they are the most important and those which require immediate attention.

I hope that the request Quebec farmers made through their organization, the C.F.U., to the effect that the price of industrial milk be set at \$4 per hundredweight will be granted within the next few days.

It is also the responsibility of your department to correct an injustice which has existed for several years with regard to the producers of milk for consumption and for processing. A great many farmers sell part of their milk production to the dairies for consumption, while the other part is directed to milk processing factories. Because they are compelled to play this dual role, they are deprived of the benefits enjoyed by those who deliver all their production for consumption.

I have always felt that this was a kind of discrimination and the Minister of Agriculture owes it to himself to deal with all milk producers on the same basis.

The Minister of Agriculture should supply the farmers of the Roberval area with seed grains, since last year's crop has been nil, as is evidenced by grants of \$30 per head of wintered-over dairy cows, in order to maintain our dairy herds.

I also rely upon the influence of the department as regards the close control of operations related to the seeding of clouds in my constituency during the next summer months.

For three years our farmers have seen their fields literally flooded on account of these chemical experiments that have brought about their precarious condition.

There must not be a fourth successive year of induced downpours. I shall go further: If the Quebec government turns a deaf ear, if it prefers the advice of its "Hydro" to the advice of thousands of farmers, if it still allows the Weather Engineering Company to carry on in the sky above our area, then I will ask the minister to exert his authority as regards air pollution, and to forbid those infernal machines to darken the skies above Roberval.

I would not wish to close my remarks without referring to ARDA, since, where I come from, this is the one word we hear whenever solutions to farm problems are mentioned. One could say it is the magic word