

Agricultural Conditions

Saskatchewan by the present Prime Minister. This letter reveals to what extent my right hon. friend has knowledge of the situation. He writes:

My Dear Premier:

I return you herewith the papers you sent me the other day.

Your informant is in error. The officials were appointed under the War Measures Act—

I want the house to listen to this:

—to deal with Canadian wheat. They were known as the board of grain supervision on the Canadian wheat board. The wheat board sold the Canadian crop of 1919 and after paying all expenses, they credited to the Finance department the sum of \$428,781. After everything was wound up, the money sent to the western provinces was \$560,000. There remains upwards of \$100,000 which is in process of being made available for relief purposes in the west.

Now listen to this:

The letter indicates how easy it is to have erroneous impressions regarding public matters.

I just wish to prove to the Prime Minister how erroneous his own statements are. I want to give the correct figures which I know will be substantiated even by his Minister of Agriculture. The old wheat board of 1919 had a surplus of some \$732,000. Of that, \$560,000 was paid to the farmers by the late lamented James Robb. In the final wind-up the grain supervisors turned over to the federal Department of Finance \$428,000, making a total of \$1,160,000, leaving still owing to the farmers of Canada the sum of \$600,000. Therefore I think the Prime Minister had better revise his information and take it from the records within the department. In his letter he says:

The letter indicates how easy it is to have erroneous impressions regarding public matters.

I would suggest that even at this late date, while he is still having conferences with, shall I say, those who are interested in the marketing of Canada's wheat crop, he revise his figures and see whether the figures I give him are not correct, because it may have some bearing if he realizes that this country still owes some \$600,000 to the farmers. I do not wish to go into details; I merely wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to this fact.

I was one of those who, on Saturday night, objected to the estimates on agriculture going through as they were and being assisted through the house by the Prime Minister. As I pointed out then, some very important, supposedly new agricultural policies have been brought into effect by the present Minister of Agriculture, and it is only fair and just to the farmers throughout Canada that the government and the Minister of Agriculture in par-

[Mr. Vallance.]

ticular should have an opportunity to tell the house and the country just what those policies are and just what effect it is believed they will have on the deplorable conditions existing in agriculture at the present time.

Mr. LUCAS: Why does not the hon. member give the minister a chance to discuss this question?

Mr. VALLANCE: If the house had had its way on Saturday, you would have had no chance to hear him. I would say to the Prime Minister that if he had not been so impetuous on Saturday night, the house could have got through before twelve o'clock, and it was his own fault that it did not get through.

Mr. BOWMAN: You mean if the ex-Minister of Justice had not taken up so much time we would have got through.

Mr. VALLANCE: I am not laying the blame on anyone, except to say that if the Prime Minister had not been so impetuous and dictatorial we would have got through on Saturday night. It was his own attitude that brought those of us to our feet who rose on Saturday night.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): Please continue.

Mr. VALLANCE: I think that any member from western Canada sitting behind the government ought to agree with the attitude that three or four of us on this side of the house took on Saturday. I am sure it will be appreciated by the farmers of western Canada. It is because of the promise hon. gentlemen opposite made to the farmers of western Canada that they are now sitting over there. Take the election in South Battleford, for instance. If you go into the records of that election you will find that there were two thousand farmers who left the Progressive or farmer candidate and voted Tory. Why? Because of the promises you gave.

Mr. MANTON: Because they were tired of your conduct.

Mr. VALLANCE: You can go through the record and you will find—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will please address the chair.

Mr. VALLANCE: I think I did address the chair, Mr. Speaker, but the hon. Minister of Railways addressed a remark to me across the floor without even referring to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not put the hon. member in order.