

minion of Canada to-day a better class of men than our farmers, and there is no class more willing to pay their taxes. While the farmers do not come under this income tax, they are paying taxes all the time in other ways just as the rest of the community, and they are willing to do so. It is unfair to insinuate that the farmers of this country are not willing to pay their taxes. The very argument that the hon. member for St. Antoine has set forth here is the best argument under Heaven why our farmers are leaving the country and why the young men will not stay on the farms. Why do they not stay there? I have discussed the matter with people throughout the country and I find the young farmers go to school and they absolutely refuse to go back to the farm because they have to work from twelve to fifteen hours a day. And what for? Not for an income of \$2,000 a year, but, as the farmers have done for the last half century, to feed the people of the urban centres for less than it actually costs to produce the food at an average wage of \$2 a day. There were no complaints from the city people when they got butter at fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen cents a pound, but there is a serious complaint when the farmer can get enough to break even, let alone make a dollar. I wanted to say a few things last night, but at the late hour I would not impose myself upon the House. If you take the best one hundred acres in the experimental farm at Ottawa, or the best one hundred and fifty acres in the experimental farm at Guelph, and run that on a mixed farming basis, producing butter and cheese and other farm produce at the average wages men are asking from the manufacturers—still more, at the minimum wage that Ford is giving his men—you cannot produce butter at \$1 a pound and make a profit. I hope the people of this country will not think that the farming community are trying to shirk their duty. When I went through my riding in 1917, when the cry went out for more production, I saw old men with hair like the snow of winter out between the plough handles, and when their work was finished, their limbs were trembling. Were they there to make a dollar? No, they were there to try to help out in the war.

Mr. BOYCE: I heard an hon. member saying that he was not a farmer, but that he knows a good deal about them. I am a farmer and I know a good deal about farmers, and they are not making the for-

[Mr. Sexsmith.]

tunes that are attributed to them. Since I came into this House, I have found that when any hon. member ran short of a subject and wanted to get one, he started to say hard things about the farmers. I want to tell those hon. gentlemen that, as long as I remain in this House, let that be long or short, I will, as far as lies in my power, put a stop to this habit of saying harsh things about the farmers. The farmers contributed both men and money when they were needed, and they will be only too glad and proud, if need be, to do the same again. My hon. friend (Sir Herbert Ames) made some insinuations that we were not paying our share. Let me tell him that to make an income of \$2,000 off a farm comprising 100 or 150 acres is pretty hard to do. He seems to think not, and he seems to have produced those figures to make a kind of assault, if I may say so, upon the farmers. Before the hon. gentleman begins to make any insinuations against the farmers, I would advise him to take some of the surplus money he has and visit them and make close inquiry, and if any farmers are making above the minimum, we are the men who will pay our share just as readily as my hon. friend or any other capitalist or millionaire raised in the Dominion of Canada. This discussion will probably do him good and do me good because I have sat silent here for quite a while. I thought I would have been able to say something upon the tariff, and I may be able to say a word or two later on. This discussion will only make us better friends, and I trust when he makes that visit, he will call upon myself and I will drive him around. I am not like my hon. friend here making a poor mouth—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. gentleman. He is not to blame. The fault is that of the Chairman in allowing a miniature Budget speech in Committee. That started the discussion. It is not relevant to the clause under consideration and I cannot allow it to proceed further except by unanimous consent.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. BOYCE: I am not a law breaker although I am a farmer, and I obey your ruling, Sir, gladly. I do not, however, want to sit down as a criminal or a law breaker, but as one of the independent farmers of the Dominion of Canada, and I may say, of the county of Carleton.