

old Canadian farmer, is not content with his life. When our Canadian farmers are compelled to leave their farms on account of deficits accruing every year in spite of their hard labour, how can one expect that new immigrants, who are not yet tied up to this country by the many bonds of residence, environment, laws, social and family relations, public or private institutions, will stick to a meaningless home? I appeal to this government and to all men of goodwill in this parliament; let us get together and unite our efforts to adopt legislation to relieve, first of all, our agricultural industries. It seems to me that such a unanimous effort is our main national duty at the present time.

If we want again to enjoy prosperity, let our next budget tend more towards eliminating the causes of the farmers' critical situation, that is, low prices for their products, high freight rates, costly machinery, and high duties on the necessities of life. Let us adopt measures that will improve the lot of our rural population. Let us contribute to keep our own Canadians at home, on the land, in the cultivation of which they will find some happiness. Our farmers, respectful as they are for the moral and natural laws, will see their numbers increasing by natural expansion and by a large immigration coming to share their contented life. Thus, through our efforts, Canada will become more prosperous, and we shall have done for our country more than those who wave the flag for the sake of a small group having special privileges and a large protection, or for the sake of a few ambitious politicians.

Mr. HUGH C. MCKILLOP (West Elgin): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) on the very able manner in which he brought down the 1924 budget. While not at all in sympathy with what the budget contains, yet at the same time I want to give the hon. minister all credit for the prompt and quick despatch he gave it. About a month ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), during a speech that he delivered in this House, referred to me as being one of a deputation that waited on the cabinet one day last winter in reference to the Home Bank depositors. In this statement the Prime Minister was correct. I was invited by members of the deputation from the constituency which I have the honour to represent to accompany them to Ottawa. This kind invitation was accepted gladly, because although not a loser by the failure of the Home Bank, yet I was always in sympathy with the de-

[Mr. Beaubien.]

positors, many of whom lost their all in this disaster; and when everything in connection with this failure is taken into consideration I am strongly of opinion that something should be done for them. For instance, it is a well-known fact that the government was fully aware, before the collapse of this bank, of the condition it was in. Such being the case, why did they not make some move to prevent this failure and save the depositors from the loss of their money? What a difference between the course of this government in regard to this matter and the action of the provincial government of Quebec. In this latter case, as soon as the government found that one of their large financial institutions was in danger of failure they moved at once, took prompt measures, did not allow the bank to fail, saved the depositors their money and prevented what otherwise would have been a financial calamity. Not so with our Dominion government, who, although they knew that the Home Bank was in a bad condition, never raised a hand to prevent this bank from failing, thereby allowing many people to lose so much, and in many cases their all, and spreading hardship and ruin from one end of this country to the other, when they might, by prompt action through the Bankers' Association or by some other means, have prevented this catastrophe from taking place.

Now, I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that taking all these facts into consideration, I think the depositors of the Home Bank should be reimbursed to the full extent of their losses, and I for one will support any measure brought forward in this House with that object in view. Of course I know that the argument is advanced that the Home Bank depositors cannot be given back their money without the depositors of the Farmers Bank getting their money back also. Well, all I have to say to that is this: When the Farmers Bank failed my sympathy was with the depositors, and I thought they should have had their money back, but two wrongs never made a right. Therefore, I claim that just because the Farmers Bank depositors did not get their money back is no reason why the depositors of the Home Bank should not receive theirs, and I sincerely hope that the government will find a way to give back to the depositors of the Home Bank all the money they lost.

Last year I drew to the attention of the government a condition of affairs that existed between the tariff duties on beans coming into this country and the bean producers of Canada. I am very sorry to note that no change