

ever the reason may be I certainly deem it an honour to be permitted to sit in the front row in this Chamber and at the same desk as my fair colleague.

The recent Great War has brought about changes in the political attitude of many of the citizens of Canada, and I think it is because of that fact that so many farmer members occupy seats in the present Parliament. I well remember, and it will be in the recollection of many members of the House, that but a few short years ago on our side roads and back concession lines political contests were fought out largely on the lines of party politics. At that time both Liberals and Conservatives would raise the cry "Stay with your party," and on many occasions neighbours, even though their interests were identical, would often be divided by party issues almost to the breaking point. I certainly think that the Great War through which we have passed is partly responsible for the change in that respect in the rural sections of our country.

The farmers have now become organized and I do not think any one will complain because of their doing so. They have long been organized, and have long co-operated in the carrying on of commercial enterprises, and therefore it is only logical for them to advance a further step and to organize on political lines. Owing to that organization the farmers of this country have now a representation in Parliament such as they never had in the past. They have not embarked upon this political movement for the purposes of securing class legislation, although during the recent political campaign it was advanced that they had become associated for selfish purposes and to bring about laws favourable to their class. We are willing to admit that possibly there is just as much selfishness among the farmers as among any other class, but we are not willing to agree that they are more largely influenced by selfishness than any other portion of the community. We have entered into this movement in order to lay our views before the country and assist in the legislation of the Dominion. Surely it will be admitted that no persons are better able to understand the conditions of the farming industry than those who themselves are engaged in agriculture. The merchants of the country have a grasp of mercantile conditions, the manufacturers have an intimate knowledge of industrial necessities, and farmers are best fitted to understand and give expression to the conditions of farm life. We

have therefore come here to help in legislating on broad and comprehensive lines and to explain as best we can the requirements of the farming community of Canada.

One thing we certainly require, and it is a necessity to which frequent allusion has been made—greater markets for our farm products. We heard a great deal of the depopulation of the rural sections of Canada, and especially of the rural sections of the province of Ontario. Certainly the latter statement is true; the rural sections of Ontario are not nearly as well populated as they formerly were. If this be the case what is the reason for it? There must be some explanation when farmers leave the farm, when farmers' sons will not remain at home but make their way to the great urban centres of the country. To my mind one great cause of that movement is the lack of adequate remuneration received by the farmers for their labour. The farmer's son is not going to remain on the farm when his city cousin receives a great deal more for his labours than he himself does. Therefore, in order to increase our farm population and augment the production on the farms, markets must be provided for our farm products. We are living in a comparatively new country, possessing immense agricultural resources as yet undeveloped. On the great prairies of the West there are thousands of acres still uncultivated which could be made to produce in abundance; and even in rural Ontario—I mean, what is known as Old Ontario—the production could be greatly enhanced. But, as I said a moment ago, men leave the farms. They do not leave the farms because those farms are a gold mine; men will not run away from a gold mine. One thing that we need is larger markets, more extensive markets for the products of our farm. How are we going to get them? We are hedged in to some extent because we have to face the Fordney Bill passed by the great nation to the south of us. Then the embargo on our cattle in the Old Country has not yet been removed. We are hopeful that by and by it will be removed; but it is still a settled fact that that embargo remains against our cattle entering the Old Country, at least they have to be slaughtered at the point of entry, and it is a handicap to the farmers in marketing the cattle because it reduces their value. Then, as far as the United States' market, which is our most natural market, is concerned, we are hedged in by the Fordney