

Supply—Agriculture

matter among other things. Although I do not have the material here, it is my recollection that as a result of the committee's report the principle of diminishing responsibility was introduced in the United Kingdom.

Finally, I want to put forward the proposition that if at the time the M'Naghten rules were laid down there had been medical people with the knowledge and learning that exists today in the field of psychiatry the M'Naghten rules would not have been laid down as they were then. We would have had rules far more humane, far more intelligent and far more in line with what we should have in this country today.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Fisher: Carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour appointed for consideration of private members' business having expired the house will revert to the consideration of the business interrupted at five o'clock.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Chairman, before five o'clock I had been dealing with the problems faced by the farmers in my constituency over the past four years as well as the danger that is hanging over their heads at the moment as a result of the very unusual conditions occurring this winter. These conditions result from a combination of a heavy snowfall without a thaw, and also the fact that there has been very little frost in the ground. As any good Canadian, particularly from the northern part of Canada, will realize this is a very dangerous combination.

I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister had given any thought to this matter, if he has any plans to meet a situation of this kind or if this situation had come to his attention. The farmers of northern Ontario have always been in a very unfortunate situation. When anyone in Canada, or possibly any place else in the world, thinks about northern Ontario he generally thinks of gold mines, copper, zinc, asbestos, silver and so on. Few people realize the farming potential of this part of the country. I believe that as time goes on and as we see what is developing in southern Ontario where some of the choice farmland in Canada is being gobbled

[Mr. Baldwin.]

up by sprawling factories and so forth, we will come to realize very quickly that this great farm country of the north is capable of great things. I do not think there is any question about that at all.

The question I am raising tonight is this: When this country comes into its own, will the farmers who have struggled for so long to develop these farms still be there to benefit, or will they be forced by circumstances such as I have outlined here tonight to leave those farms? One farmer told me that the vegetable farmers of Ontario are in a very tough situation. At about the time the crops down in the Niagara peninsula come on the market, they meet competition from the tail end of the United States production. Then when the production from the Holland marshes come on the market, it meets competition from the tail end of the production in the Niagara peninsula. When the agricultural production of northern Ontario comes along, it meets competition from the tail end of the production from the Holland marshes. The result is that the vegetable farmers are faced with a depressed market all the way along the line. I believe this problem has been sadly neglected in the past. I believe more attention should be paid to it, and I would be interested in hearing from the minister whether or not he has any plans or if these farmers are really as forgotten as some of them seem to believe they are.

Mr. Peters: I had expected the minister would like to answer some of these questions that have been raised. However he may intend to do this later, because I think we are going to have some time during which he will be able to answer these questions. We have heard a great deal about how important this item in the estimates is. While I know that the amount of money is not large compared with the over-all cost of the department, it is an administrative item and therefore there is a great deal of interest in it beyond what would be warranted by the amount of money it covers.

I was interested this afternoon in the statement made by the minister as well as the one he made on March 26. In my opinion, these statements were long overdue. I have always been one of those who felt that the minister, if he were as good an auctioneer as people say, and keeping in mind the Hays farms in Ontario, might be one with whom it would be unwise to tangle. I am quite sure he has capabilities which have not been apparent to date. However as I say I was pleased to hear the statement he made today. I should like to congratulate both the minister and Mr. Phillips who, I believe, probably had something to do with writing his speech. I have met Mr. Phillips a number of times. He