

a co-operative company is classed merely as a consumer. That rule to-day is recognized in the administration of our tariff legislation. Under this rule a co-operative company is forced to go to a foreign country and buy its requirements, but at once the Canadian combine steps in and, on the ground that the co-operative company has gone past the wholesaler, the jobber, the dealer and the manufacturer, applies under the Dumping Act for the imposition of a penalty equal to the profits of all these concerns in between. Our co-operative companies, I repeat, are classed only as consumers, irrespective of the volume of business they do or what they distribute. Is that fair? Is there any British fair play in that, Sir? I would respectfully ask this House to consider this unjust discrimination before any further legislation along this line is passed. Is this fair play to the working men and women of this country, to those engaged in our basic industry?

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is time that we emphasized the disparity between life on the farm to-day and in the city, and the state of slavery that our men, women and children are subjected to in their attempt to keep themselves above the line of want. I believe it is the patriotic duty of men in Canada occupying positions similar to that occupied by Dr. Macey Campbell in the United States to make known the discrimination against our rural life lest we sink to the level of the conditions he has described as prevailing to-day in some of the finest states of the union. What he has described, Sir, is the result of the system upon which we are exhorted to base our fiscal policy by hon. gentlemen who advocate protection, and who are willing that those engaged in our basic industry may suffer degradation as deplorable as that witnessed by Dr. Campbell if only they themselves can reach immediate wealth at the expense of their unfortunate fellow-Canadians.

Hon. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): Mr. Speaker, representing a constituency in which the people are engaged in mixed farming and are especially interested in dairy production, I desire to give my support to the amendment which has been proposed with characteristic ability and attention to detail by the hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), than whom no more sincere or better qualified champion of the farmers of Canada has had a seat in this House during the last twenty years.

I support the amendment proposed by the hon. member for South Oxford for the reasons stated in the amendment—that the Speech from the Throne proposes no remedial legis-

[Mr. Evans.]

lation to alleviate the injustice under which the farmers of this country are suffering at this time, and have been for many years. I support the amendment also in order to indicate my lack of confidence in a government in which sixty per cent of the people have said they have no confidence, in which the members of this House have indicated they have no confidence—a government, in addition, which has indicated its lack of confidence in the members of this House, as well as its lack of confidence in itself. I also support the amendment as a protest against the manner in which two hon. gentlemen of this House have presented demands on this government and against the acquiescence of the government in those demands—demands the compliance with which constitute a supplement to the Speech from the Throne, demands which are subversive of the very fundamental principles of responsible government, demands which indicate the desperate character of those presenting them and the desperate necessity, pitiable weakness, and lack of dignity on the part of the government acceding to them.

On the 29th of October last the government appealed to the country for reasons plainly stated by the Prime Minister in his Richmond Hill speech. In that speech he stated that he wanted a more definite mandate from the people of Canada. In that speech he stated that the government would no longer be justified in merely marking time and drawing their salaries, that four years of simply marking time and drawing their salaries was long enough. He asked for his mandate; the election was held, and his party now finds itself in this position: the Prime Minister defeated, half of his cabinet defeated, and the membership of his following in this House reduced by some sixteen as compared with its standing in the previous parliament. But notwithstanding those facts, notwithstanding the fact that practically sixty per cent of the people of Canada by their votes on the 29th of October declared they had no further use for this government, the remnant of this government nevertheless comes back here and undertakes to carry on as a government, and then it presents the pitiable spectacle of influencing members of other groups to give them their support in order that they may be able to carry on. They further indicate their lack of confidence in themselves as a government, or their lack of confidence in the merits of the legislation they propose, when they ask this parliament to give them a recess of five or six weeks in order to reorganize the government.

I said, Mr. Speaker, that I would vote for this amendment also as a protest against the manner in which two hon. gentlemen of this