

Expropriation of Farmlands by C.N.R.

national parks, with the government trying to destroy the long term leases—

Mr. Laing: Careful.

Mr. Fane: O.K. Art—with the government trying to destroy the long term leases and the private ownership of property that has existed since before the parks were started. I refer hon. members to a speech on this subject made by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) on May 15, 1967. I hope when I sit down, Mr. Speaker, you will see the hon. member for Bow River who I know is ready, waiting and willing to carry on from where I leave off.

● (9:30 p.m.)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The hon. member for Kootenay West. Is the hon. member rising to speak to the same grievance raised by the hon. member for Vegreville?

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Yes, Mr. Speaker; it is the same grievance. Mr. Speaker, I support very faithfully the ideal put forward by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Fane). It is not very often that I find myself in support of the same things as the hon. member for Vegreville, because I am a progressive, I believe he has a grievance which is a genuine one, and one which affects many farmers across this country in respect of expropriations by crown corporations and other organizations. I know, so far as my own constituency is concerned, that in a minor way, many farmers have had the same complaints he has mentioned concerning the railroads, and other bodies.

I should like to give an example. I admire people who stick up for their rights. I was visiting in a rather isolated part of my constituency in which a lady lives who came from England about 65 years ago. She lives alone on a cattle ranch which she has had for over 50 years. She also has quite an area to timber. One day she discovered that a large logging company was constructing a road through her property without her permission. This was three or four miles from her home, on her own property. She immediately felled a tree across the road with a chain saw. The following morning when the men came from the camp she was sitting on the fallen log with a rifle in her hand. She said, "If any of you try to cross this road I will shoot." The men were sympathetic to her cause. The manager had to come in by helicopter. She

[Mr. Fane.]

was not concerned about the matter of compensation, but she was concerned about having her rights recognized. That company signed in a legal and proper manner an agreement to cross her property.

There are many instances such as this, but in most cases the people are afraid to stand up to the crown corporations, the railroads or organizations of that sort. I fully appreciate the grievance of the hon. member, because this type of thing has been brought to my attention a good number of times by the people whom I have the honour to represent. This is something which is of particular concern in the province of British Columbia. The farmers organizations there are trying to get the government of British Columbia to pass an act in respect of the expropriation of property, so that there will be a proper procedure and so that the farmers will receive adequate compensation for the damages they suffer.

This is a subject which should be the concern of both the federal and provincial governments. I suggest that one way to meet this problem is to have it placed on the agenda of the next federal-provincial agricultural conference, so that it can be discussed by the ministers of agriculture from the various provinces. I think this is a step which should be taken. First of all, it would help to point out the importance of this matter and would provide an opportunity to obtain the views of the various agricultural ministers across Canada. If this were to be done, a notice of intention should be sent to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the provincial federations of agriculture, the farmers unions, and so on, so that they will know what is going to happen, and so that they will have an opportunity to present their views to the provincial ministers before they come to Ottawa for this conference. If this were done I believe there would be co-operation between the federal and provincial governments in an effort to bring about similar legislation across the country to cover the matter the hon. member for Vegreville has mentioned.

I should like to deal with another matter which is related to this. It is a similar problem. I am referring to the question of hunting and fishing on private property.

Mr. Woolliams: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Herridge: Oh, yes; this has to do with the expropriation of eminent rights of the owners. This situation has developed in recent