

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

listened to the officials of the Farm Loan Board who told him to increase his production in order to get a loan. Now, they tell him it is absolutely impossible for him to get a loan. Today, he is refused the loan because his profits have declined since last year instead of increasing.

Whether it be natural or artificial, no matter, there has been an increase. It is unfortunate, because for a Canadian anxious to make a living for himself and his family it is the beginning of the end. Effectively, he will be deprived of part of his production not only of the one dollar subsidy, but also will have to accept the export rate of \$1.25 per hundredweight.

Milk, which costs \$4.50 per hundredweight, will in certain cases just be sold for \$2.30 per hundredweight. If that is the government's logic, I fail to understand it.

Now I would like the Minister of Agriculture to acquaint himself with the suggestions put forward by the people most involved, mentioned in the reports of the Committee on Agriculture which collected this evidence when it travelled throughout Ontario and all the other eastern provinces.

The minister will realize, I suppose, that he cannot indefinitely count on the moral capital of these farmers. The march that they once organized on Parliament proves without any doubt that even if they listen to election promises they also want some results between elections. The public meetings organized in Sherbrooke and elsewhere in Quebec and others that will be organized prove that the people cannot stand it any longer.

We have seen auctions. Farmers with very good buildings, excellent implements and choice livestock are financially disorganized and unable to meet the interest on their debts, even if their loans have been made at 7 and 8 per cent. And that situation is deteriorating from year to year due to the tribute which they have to pay, through governments, to the dictatorship of money and credit.

That situation is reflected by the young who leave the farm and have no wish to inherit the debts of their parents. One could read the following in the April 2, 1970, issue of a Quebec City newspaper, and I quote:

Resounding failure of the integrated farm vocational training.

Everything is being contemplated to retrain farmers, but the training already in existence

[Mr. Godin.]

is in the process of disintegrating. I go on with the quotation:

The integration of the farm vocational training will have been a resounding failure, if the recently published official figures are true. Indeed, only five training centres have been set up for 1969-70, while for the previous year, there were seven traditional institutions devoted to farm vocational training.

The enrolment, at the first year level, for 1969-70, that is at the secondary IV grade, in the five centres, are practically five times less than for the previous year, in agricultural schools (49 as against 220). And to conclude those disappointing statistics, while normally 75 per cent of the students enrolled in the first year were coming back to finish the second period of training, only 25 per cent did so this year, although favourable conditions were offered them.

And, as a matter of fact, the report indicates that, for the year 1968-69, 220 students had asked for enrolment, as against 49 in 1969-70.

This is how things repeat themselves. Farm operations are becoming more and more productive, as compared with 15 years ago. The capitalization of a medium-sized farm in the province of Quebec, which was \$10,000 15 years ago, has gone up today to \$25,000. And at the same time, the value of the land, buildings and cattle has doubled, whereas capital outlays for machinery and equipment of all sorts have tripled. Quite often, we see farms worth over \$50,000. And all such changes happened not only before the eyes of the government experts, but on their recommendations. Many farms are worth \$50,000 but on the other hand, some farmers are in the red to the extent of \$25,000 or \$30,000. They had to get into debt, it was for them the only way to make their business profitable.

A Portneuf farmer who wished to borrow \$10,000 to expand his barn and whose farm covered 125 acres, who could rent his neighbour's farm for quite a limited amount, was simply refused a \$10,000 loan. He was told: "My boy, buy your neighbour's farm and we will loan you \$20,000." "Therefore, all they want is to cut those people's throats. The Farm Loan Board and the Farm Credit Corporation do not care to lend \$10,000. But once he has bought his neighbour's farm and secured a \$20,000 loan, the farmer will be slaughtered. Financing, insurance rates, taxes of all kinds and increased operation costs, that is what today's farmer has to face.

Under the auspices of the dairy policy of the last three years, the farmer has managed to keep his chin up while playing on depreciation and running into debt right and left, because he was trusted. We have wit-