

New Brunswick potatoes can be marketed to the satisfaction of all concerned. I have stressed this in no uncertain terms with the growers, the dealers and the federal authorities.

Then he refers to our New Brunswick act:

This act is largely along similar lines to that which is in effect in a great many of the provinces, but acts of this nature have no authority in regard to controlling the marketing of any product in export or interprovincial movement. A marketing plan was set up under this act but due to its being general knowledge that there was no legislative power dealing with the export it was of no effect. I have strongly urged on the federal authorities that in order to make provincial marketing legislation effective it is necessary to have a federal act that has the authority in regard to interprovincial and export movements.

And further down:

I trust that the present legislation which is being considered in Ottawa will give the federal authority that is necessary to make a complete job of the necessary legislative authority and should that be the case we would be only too glad to urge on the producers in New Brunswick to organize in order that they may take advantage of same, but failing to provide federal legislation it is absolutely out of the question for our growers to organize and control the marketing under our provincial legislation.

Mr. F. W. Squires, a member of the New Brunswick legislature and former leader of the opposition, recently referred to this matter, I believe in the month of April although I have not the exact date. As reported in the *Telegraph-Journal* he had this to say:

I must say, however, that as regards the expansion of our potato industry, that the minister of agriculture—

He is referring to the provincial minister. —has done the best he could, but has met with a refusal to cooperate from certain interests and by a cold-blooded and refractory attitude by the dominion government.

I know those remarks are not justified in so far as they relate to the federal government, but I just wanted to point out to the minister the form of criticism which is likely to materialize in New Brunswick if something is not done by this government to bring about a better marketing of our huge crop of potatoes. I urge the minister either to introduce legislation during the present session or to give such assurance regarding marketing as may be necessary to put our farmers at rest in connection with this problem which is so vital to them. I want to emphasize the importance of their having something definite in this connection before seeding gets underway in my province, and that is the reason I am speaking tonight.

If we are to rely entirely on the Agricultural Prices Support Act should our 1947 crop turn out to be as heavy as the 1946 crop, what

will be the policy of the board in assisting the farmers? I wish to warn the minister that, although the steps taken last fall were sound and he is to be commended for taking them, any purchasing which may be done by the government in order to relieve a situation similar to the one we had this winter will have to be done before May 1, and even before April 1, if it is to be of any real assistance to the farmer. The peak price for potatoes is reached about March 1, and I submit that any future policy similar to the one adopted last year should provide for a date not later than March 1. How the date of May 1 was arrived at last fall I do not know, but there has been considerable criticism along the Saint John river as to what occurred when a high official of this Department of Agriculture went there. I do not wish to air that criticism on the floor of the house, but if the minister wishes I shall be glad to tell him confidentially what the farmers are complaining about, and, in my opinion, rightly so.

The easiest and the wisest way to overcome all this difficulty is to provide marketing legislation during the present session. I submit that a potato marketing board could be operated with a minimum of cost to the government and a maximum of efficiency for our farmers. I know some hon. members will say that this is socialistic legislation. Personally I do not care very much about words and definitions; what I am interested in is results. After all, it is hardly conceivable to have a state 100 per cent socialistic or 100 per cent private enterprise. The business of any government should be to strike a happy medium between those two extreme views. We have already nationalized a number of the utilities and services in this country, and with good results. In any event, this marketing board would not be any more socialistic than the wheat board and the other boards which, in my opinion, are performing useful functions. Before leaving this point I wish to urge the minister once more to tell our farmers what they may depend upon next year in the nature of assistance against the possibility of a situation similar to that which prevailed until a few weeks ago in New Brunswick.

Before resuming my seat I wish to make a few comments on some of the criticisms which were voiced by some of the members of the opposition. As we say in French, "À tout seigneur tout honneur". I shall begin with the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell). In his able speech he used the word "disappointment" very often. To those of us who were sitting on this side