

*Supply—Agriculture*

backwoods and develops a farm under pioneer conditions is often the best type of credit risk you can obtain in Canada. I hope the minister will use his influence to see that the Canadian farm loan board gives every consideration to those who are wanting some assistance in the pioneer districts of the west. The farmers I have the honour to represent believe, too, that interest rates on loans made through the Canadian farm loan board should in fairness be reduced.

Let me add, to what I have said, that our poultry producers are greatly concerned about the uncertainty of the future. Here is an illustration where there is great necessity for provincial and federal planning in production and marketing. Owing to the recent slump in poultry prices and the loss of poultry markets—and in this I am sure the hon. member for Fraser Valley will bear me out—in recent months hundreds of poultry producers have gone out of production.

The poultry industry is in a most unstable condition. It is not fair to permit people without knowledge and experience to enter into the production of poultry on a large scale. No doubt the minister is familiar with the conference which was held at Regina, upon which occasion poultrymen expressed their desire to have floor prices placed under eggs and poultry, according to the terms of the Agricultural Prices Support Act.

I offer these few remarks so that the matters I have mentioned may be placed before the minister, and in conclusion I express the hope that he will use his influence within the cabinet to remedy the conditions I have mentioned.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Mr. Chairman, I shall not take much time—just about an hour and a half. I shall cover a number of subjects, but first of all I would say to the Minister of Justice, who is now in his seat, that I hope he takes my advice when he is considering the appointment of judges, or anyone else, in my riding in the future.

I shall now digress from fruit and eggs—

**Mr. Sinclair:** Bathing beauty judges?

**Mr. Cruickshank:** The hon. member for Coast-Capilano must know that I happen to have ability he does not have, in that I can judge anything satisfactorily.

The remarks I shall now direct to the Minister of Agriculture might have the support of the hon. member for Coast-Capilano. May I say to the minister that the minimum price at which we can produce filbert nuts in British Columbia is 25 cents a pound, and that at no profit to ourselves. Those nuts are being sold on the Winnipeg market today, and on European markets, at 15 cents a pound. The Americans have a protection to the extent

of a duty of 5 cents, but we have no such protection, with the result that they are being imported into Canada.

I would ask the minister to consider this matter seriously, particularly in view of the fact that it requires from five to seven years to produce filbert nuts. Yet they can be brought to Canada to sell at 15 cents a pound. These nuts come from Sicily and Italy—and I do not know what either Sicily or Italy ever did for this country.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Liberal free trade.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** There are only two free traders here, the Minister of Agriculture and the hon. member for Fraser Valley. I would submit, particularly for the benefit of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and the junior member for Coast-Capilano, that to add insult to injury, a company from Hamilton is now installing a margarine factory in my riding. Surely there should be some law against that.

I speak seriously when I refer to the filbert nuts, because this is a matter which affects my district in which we have about 500 acres in production. There would be that much if my riding and New Westminster were taken together. We can produce figures to show our cost of production, which indicates that we cannot possibly produce them for less than 25 cents a pound. Yet they are being sold today at the low price I have mentioned. Further, I am informed by the association of growers that many of these imported filberts are diseased. We do not want the disease to affect our production.

I shall not discuss eggs or other matters, because I shall have time to do that in the future. The *Ottawa Journal* is a newspaper of note, and I have been interested to see that in one week it contained an editorial praising me, while in the next week it condemned me. So it must be a pretty good paper. It carried an editorial yesterday in which mention was made of a few of the scrub apples grown in Ontario. I want everyone to know for sure that we in British Columbia do not ship our scrub apples; we do not even make them into cider, as was mentioned in the editorial. We just send them out to the Pacific coast for pig feed.

**Mr. Harris (Danforth):** Before the hon. member leaves the matter of nuts, would he tell the committee the percentage of oil or fats in the nuts he proposes to grow in his community. No doubt the fat from the nuts to be produced there will find its way into the margarine factory he has mentioned. I imagine it would run about 30 or 40 per cent fat.