

-2-

C200101

"on measures affecting the public welfare, and more particularly the interests of the very people who sent the 14 members of the Farmers Party to the last House, reveals the striking fact that on every vote of this nature the Progressives shirked their duty. They frequently ran away from the votes and left the attempts at constructive legislation in the hands of the Liberal opposition. The Farmer delegation in the last Commons dodged the following votes or were present in such few numbers - not more than three or four on any one occasion - that they were negligible factors in the debates and votes: Animal Contagious Diseases Act, Oleomargarine Bill, Inspection and Sales Act, Grading of Dairy Products, Cattle Embargo debate, Grants to Agricultural Shows, Development of Resources, Agricultural Estimates debate, Meat and Canned Foods Act.

"To sum up, the Farmer Progressive group in the last parliament showed itself to be utterly indifferent to the character or trend of legislation. It left the Liberals to fight the battle of the farmers and consumers on every occasion. The Farmers Party even voted with the government to a more or less degree when sufficiently interested to vote at all. This would go to show that much of the professed anxiety of the Progressive Party for the consumer and the producer at this time is, to say the least, far from sincere. If 14 members of a group showed little or no interest in matters vitally affecting their own professed principles, what likelihood is there of such a group legislating for the good of the general public?"