

sudden, the roaring of the guns in the Balkans changes his disposition. He takes heart once more and willingly endorses now the proposal for the giving away of millions. If that is what the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères calls standing by one's principles, I must say he is a first rate acrobat.

The hon. member for Chambly and Verchères congratulated the Government on having provided an annual grant to the provincial legislatures as an encouragement to agricultural pursuits. I willingly join my congratulations to his for it is only fair that Cæsar should have his due. However, I think he is mistaken in stating that the Government proposes granting an amount of \$500,000 to each of the provinces. Such a division of the grant would be unfair. Some of the provinces, in consequence of the extent of their territory or the numbers of their inhabitants, are surely entitled to a larger grant to enable them to overcome difficulties and spread a knowledge of improved methods in rural husbandry. If my memory serves me right, the increase in the Dominion subsidy to the provinces, as granted by the late government, had also as part of its object, to assist in the agricultural development of the provinces.

As a matter of fact, the special grant to agriculture which the present Government propose to give is a mere revival of the late government's policy; the only difference is in the name, not in the thing itself. Nevertheless, I am glad to see the Conservative government following in our footsteps.

The hon. member for Chambly and Verchères calls for the establishment of special agricultural classes in the business college's throughout our province. I do not concur with him. To my mind, our commercial schools should remain as they are to-day, should continue improving on the same lines and endeavour to make their curriculum more and more up-to-date, but without meddling with agriculture. Let our commercial schools stick to their primary object. If it is desired that agriculture should be taught, let there be established special schools for that purpose, whose curriculum would comprise the teaching of some of the matters taught in commercial schools. Let us not confuse things. Experience has shown that farmers who send their sons to commercial schools are not desirous that they should take up farms, but that they should engage in trade or industry.

Again experience shows that in rare cases only do boys take to agriculture after going through a course at a commercial school or college. To my mind, the teaching of agriculture in such schools would

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result in a waste of time for the pupils. If it is wished that the theory of agriculture should be taught, let special schools be opened in addition to those already in existence. I may mention the Macdonald college of agriculture at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, where hundreds of young men and girls are continually receiving the instruction which will be helpful to them in after life. The teaching which is given there is wholly in connection with farm husbandry and household science. However, a number of commercial subjects are included in the curriculum. The same might be said of the schools at Oka and St. Anne de Lapocatière, though their organization is on a smaller scale. I have every day occasion to notice the large numbers of young men and girls from various localities in my constituency who attend the courses at Macdonald college. We might be content with schools equipped on a smaller scale. I for one think that agriculture should be taught in agricultural schools, in the same way that commercial and industrial subjects are taught in business or technical schools, the classics in classical colleges, and the liberal arts in the universities.

On the other hand, I am in accord with the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères when he requests the establishment of a larger number of model farms, and I might add the appointment of a larger number of qualified professors, in a position to give field demonstrations of the new methods and improvements, a knowledge of which is a source of profit to the farming community at large.

The hon. member for Chambly and Verchères states that he has been requested to obtain from the Government grants towards enabling agricultural societies to improve their exhibition grounds and buildings, in order to impart to farm boys an adequate idea of the importance of the agricultural fair at which from year to year in every county farmers congregate, compete and compare notes. The views thus expressed by the hon. gentleman if he be sincere, are worthy of praise but at the same time they indicate on his part very little knowledge of the question. Exhibitions are under the control of the provincial governments. The Dominion government subsidizes, by special vote, a small number only of central exhibitions.

Mr. RAINVILLE: (Translation.) Allow me to say one word. I am well aware that agricultural exhibitions are under the control of the provincial governments; my idea was simply this, that the Dominion government might take occasion of the agreement to be entered into with the provincial authorities to give effect to my suggestion.