

what you should expect of a banking system. The cure would lie in a proper system of crop insurance, in reasonable prices to your farmers so that their industry is on a basis where it can hope to get credit and pay the cost of that credit?—A. Yes, I hope we can come to that time. The Prairie Farmers Assistance Act is a step towards the idea of crop insurance. There is a certain amount of payment exacted from the delivery of grain for that purpose. My hope is that will be increased and extended. I should like to see that come, and that would take care of some of your times of extremity, but if you take your mind back to the 30's again there is no insurance amount that could ever accumulate, in my opinion, that would take care of a situation such as we had during all those years.

Q. It would be a matter for the nation to look after, but what Mr. Slaght is getting at is this, that if you are not going to take care of the fundamental conditions of the farmer and are going to say the answer to it is a nationalized banking system which will go on making loans whether they can hope to be repaid or not, you are going to run into the fact that banking system would be controlled perhaps in another part of the country and they would say, "We object to money being handed out under such a system". Do you not visualize that possibility?—

A. Yes, but I hope you will not run away with the idea that I am saying whether the banks are nationally owned or privately owned that immediately cures all of the ills of all the farmers. It does not. There are many many other things that come into it in the ordinary way of running a business. That business has got to be run efficiently.

Q. And, in fact, under the conditions which our farmers were in from 1932 to 1938 or 1939, whether the banking system had been publicly-owned or privately-owned, unless it was going to go in for a policy of risky loans, it could not have helped the situation very much?—A. It could not have helped the situation. I think the Prime Minister said coming over on the boat as he was on his way from the old country, when he was notified in regard to the condition in one of these particular areas, the situation has got to be accepted as a "national calamity", and that is what it was.

Mr. McGEER: It was not only confined to Saskatchewan, to the farmers of the west. It also included the C.P.R., some of the banks and all of the industrialists in the east and the great industrial population of Ontario.

The CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o'clock, gentlemen.

The WITNESS: Everything was caught in the vortex of it.

Mr. APPLEBY: I think that part can be easily answered. I have refrained from entering into the debate.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we will give you the opportunity to answer it to-morrow morning.

Mr. APPLEBY: I think we will have to go to-night.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, if you have to go to-night we had better stay on. They have to go to-night.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Cannot something be done so that these men can stay on until to-morrow? We have only got halfway through with them. We have not heard Mr. Appleby at all yet. There are a great many things to cover.

Mr. McGEER: Do you have to go to-night?

Mr. APPLEBY: Unless I can catch an airplane; it is necessary that I be in Regina on Saturday, and I am told you cannot catch airplanes nowadays.

Mr. McNEVIN: You cannot run after them and catch them.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Is it more important that Mr. Appleby be in Regina than here?

The CHAIRMAN: Let us wait for ten or fifteen minutes.