

Farm Credit Act

on the farm. I congratulate him on that thinking and I hope that, as time goes by, he may come over and join the New Democratic group in this house who believe in democratic economic planning for Canada.

(Translation):

Mr. Ouellet: No opportunity was given to me, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate the Speaker of the house—I am sorry that he is not in his chair—for his impartiality in presiding over the debates of the house. Frankly, he has proved, in the course of the week, that ours is a democratic country even though he experiences some trouble to apply the standing orders at the present time.

An hon. Member: Just look at who is speaking.

Mr. Ouellet: He had to call for order and I believe that he is not at all responsible for the charges levelled against him.

An hon. Member: How nice of him.

The Chairman: Order. I seem to be hearing two voices at the same time. I would like the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska to be able to speak without being interrupted.

Mr. Ouellet: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I listened carefully to the opinions of the members who spoke on the act which is submitted to us by the Minister of Agriculture, and which provides for a capital increase to allow a greater number of loans to be granted to farmers in the country.

For the time being, Mr. Chairman, one thing is certain—this legislation is necessary. But I am not sure this will solve the problem definitely. It may solve it temporarily because, as you might have noticed from the statistics quoted by the minister, a great number of farmers have borrowed from the Farm Credit Corporation. I do not know whether our friends opposite take pride in this fact, but you cannot but realize and regret that more and more farmers are poor and getting poorer every day.

My riding is partly agricultural, partly urban. I know something about agriculture because I was raised on a farm, in the constituency of the hon. member for Matapedia-Matane. It was said earlier that farmers had a hard time under the Liberal administration. I was farming then, and I must say that unfortunately the depression continued under the Conservative administration from 1930 to 1935 and also under the Liberal administration from 1935 to 1939. In 1940, the

[Mr. Mather.]

war which was an unfortunate event enabled politicians to save face for a while.

In all truthfulness, if the farmers of this country were here in this house to hear the proposals made here and see the benefits offered under the bill before us, they would be happy and would feel affluent during the time they would be listening to us, but unfortunately the day would come when they would have to face reality and that day would not be too far away.

The problem as it faces the farmers now, is not so much a money problem, but rather a problem of marketing their production. I am certain that if the government would take the necessary steps to market farm products, farm loans would not be necessary any more.

However, I commend the minister for having thought, at least momentarily, of solving the most urgent problem, by asking for a substantial increase. But I wonder if, under the circumstances he went far enough.

Farmers are complaining that they never meet him. If ever they meet him, they will be forced to recognize his kindness. I am positive that he has the best of intentions, but he, like others, is bound to the financiers and he probably cannot do what he would like to do.

We are made fun of when we bring forth solutions, when we ask that loans to farmers should be financed by the Bank of Canada, without interest and only at cost. Farmers want only to live.

The member for Matapedia-Matane pointed out that farmers who work their land during the summer and go to the bush during the winter do not succeed. It is obvious and I found that out myself when I used to operate a farm. Even doing both, we were starving.

It was pointed out that the Liberals were in power longer than the Conservatives and that the latter were only guilty of venial sins. I do not know about the sins of either group, but I do know that I would not absolve them.

After listening to some members in this house, I find that they are excellent salesmen; so much so in fact that if I ran a refrigerator factory, I would hire them to sell those appliances to the Eskimos and I would be sure to have a booming industry.

That is exactly what the farmer no longer wants, he is disgusted with fine speeches. All he wants is action. He is quite willing to work. Therefore, when I see that farmers are asked to pay \$50 to have their farms inspected—and I know what I am talking