

member is not stating the fact, because what he is saying is that I as an individual promised the farmers.

Mr. DUFF: I did not say "as an individual."

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member said: "The Minister of Agriculture."

Mr. DUFF: The Minister of Agriculture as the representative of the Conservative party and the Conservative candidates in 1930. He took the position of Minister of Agriculture after this government was elected on a butter policy of seventy cents a pound, and he is still holding that position. I say that the minister and his friends in 1930 promised the farmers of this country seventy cents a pound for butter.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I must object to that statement. The hon. member makes a specific charge that I promised the farmers seventy cents a pound for butter. I was not a minister at that time, and as an individual I never promised the farmers any price for any commodity.

Mr. VALLANCE: Yes, the hon. member was the only one who did it.

Mr. DUFF: I am not speaking of the minister as an individual; I am referring to him as Minister of Agriculture, as the one who benefited by the fact that the Conservative party was elected because the Prime Minister and practically every other stump speaker for that party went on the platform and said to the farmers: Under the Grit government you are getting only thirty-five cents a pound for butter; if we are elected, you will get seventy cents. The minister has benefited by that; he came into office in that way as a new man; he never sat in parliament before. Surely he should stand by his friends. They put him where he is; they gave him his exalted position as privy councillor and Minister of Agriculture. Why should he pass the buck and because I am criticizing him as representing this Tory government, now go back on all his friends who put him in his present position? That is the situation the minister is in; does he not see it?

The Minister of Agriculture tries to say that the government is not responsible for the marketing act. There is no question that when the government introduced this marketing act, they did it for a political purpose; they did it to fool the people, just as they did in 1930. They promised them something which they knew they could not fulfil, and as luck had it, instead of going to the country last year when the marketing act was new and when the Minister of Agriculture might

[Mr. R. Weir.]

have got away with it, the fact is that due to conditions the government did not go to the country with the result that, whether it is potatoes or hogs or beef or anything else, the Minister of Agriculture is in the slough of despond.

An hon. MEMBER: The valley of humiliation.

Mr. DUFF: Yes. The Tory government is now in the valley of humiliation. We had an exhibition this afternoon of the Tory government and the valley of humiliation. We had the same story as we had in 1894—the nest of traitors. We have in the Tory government to-day a situation where ministers of the crown do not stand by their leader, sick as he is and with his heart trouble.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

Mr. DUFF: Yes; my hon. friends opposite should not talk about the valley of humiliation. History has a way of repeating itself, and I have never seen it fail to do so. Everybody should be careful of the remarks he makes because to-morrow they will come back and hit him on the rebound. The hon. member must realize that to-day the Tory party is in the valley of humiliation, in the valley of treason. They are scared to go to the country; they are afraid to submit to the electorate the Minister of Agriculture's hog policy; they are afraid to submit his marketing board. Why? Because they know that his marketing board has been a mistake and a stupid one at that. They realize that the Canadian people will not stand for any interference with business.

Mr. ROSS: The former Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) agreed to the idea of the marketing board.

Mr. DUFF: That does not make it right any more than in the case of the hon. member for Kingston when he disagreed with his own party about the penitentiaries. I admire my hon. friend for being independent just as I admire the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell); but the fact remains that the government introduced this marketing board legislation to fool the people and the Minister of Agriculture has to be the goat because the government, to fool the people, introduced a bill that interferes with the right of the public to market their products in their own way and at their own prices. The minister knows this scheme is a failure; he knows the potato board is a mistake; that the apple board was a mistake; that every board was a mistake. Even in his own province the hens wouldn't