

2. That the policies of the present administration operate to restrict, rather than to expand Canadian trade.

3. That without the development of international trade Canadian agriculture will become increasingly paralyzed.

And further, in the opinion of the house, any policy with respect to agriculture should include emergency measures to meet the present agricultural crisis and adequate provision for the processing of meats and the marketing of live stock, wheat, dairy and of all other agricultural products.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance): In order that there may be ample opportunity for attack, I think it is desirable that the government should make a statement at once. The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) has moved an amendment. That amendment deals with everything with which agriculture has to do, from grain to chickens, and with every phase of these agricultural products from growth to consumption.

The amendment regrets that the government in the few months it has been in power has not taken measures to meet the views of the mover. If that amendment reflects the opinion of hon. gentlemen opposite, may I point out to them that there is not much satisfaction to be derived from listening to the speech of the hon. member for Lisgar, because early in his observations he said that the conditions about which he complained have always prevailed. It is an odd thing that he should discover in the few months during which this government has been in power something which he knew had existed for nine years and about which he had said nothing during all that time. If he knew that these conditions had always prevailed, why did he not tell the house something about them before? Why did he not tell the house before about the fifty pigs which he should have knocked on the head and did not? Those things were in the days of the other government. He said that he did not find it satisfactory to raise pigs for company. Why did he not tell us before that he had discovered that? Why did he wait until to-night? I am surprised that he reveals all these things only to-night, after all the years that have gone by during which he made no complaint.

My statement in the house the other day, about which complaint has been made, can be summarized in a single word, the word used by the hon. member for Lisgar with respect to Mr. Ward. Mr. Ward, I understand from the hon. gentleman, had a good mind to telegraph me that in making that statement I was writing my own obituary. Yes, Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen are much more concerned with that than they are with

the condition of the farmer. They are much more concerned about exploitation than they are about the progress of the farmers and about remedies for the present conditions. That I say to them without any question. All you have to do to see it is to read the record. I ask any hon. gentleman opposite to point to a single statement I made the other day which is not supported by the record.

Why did I make that statement? Because for weeks these hon. gentlemen opposite had been trying to hold up western Canada as a country in which courage had given way to despair; had been leading the people of eastern Canada and of other parts of the world to believe that western Canada was bankrupt and insolvent, that the men of that country had no longer the courage and persistence and perseverance of old. These calamity-howlers have been going to and fro in the country—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Last July.

Mr. BENNETT: —forgetting that Canada is the same country and the same people that it has been since 1867 and before, with the same courage and enterprise, the same desire and hope and determination to make this a country of homes.

I say that whoever administers the government of the country at this time, whoever administers the national finances, has a great and difficult task; and whoever goes about Canada crying that the farmers cannot receive credit has no right to make it appear that they are not worth credit. That is what is being done. Men are going to and fro crying against what? Against the country, against the position of the farmers. They say that the country is bankrupt, and that the banks will not give the farmers credit. Who is it that says the farmers are unfit for credit and that the country is bankrupt and insolvent? Day after day and week after week hon. gentlemen opposite have been saying it; they complain that the farmers cannot get credit, although for weeks they have been telling us that the farmers are insolvent. I ask how much credit you would expect a banker to give you if all your neighbours went to him and said: "This man is insolvent; he is unworthy of credit; you should not give him credit, because he is broke." Yet these same gentlemen opposite complain because the farmers cannot get credit on what they say is a creditless foundation. That is the story.

The hon. member for Lisgar said that a banker whom he saw was not prepared to give credit. Why? He would not give credit, he said, on account of a crop that was not grown. And the hon. gentleman says that