

point out something which I think should be done in the way of investigation. The ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Tolmie) in his address on the budget emphasized the necessity for an investigation. It may not be popular for me to say so, but I am going to state what is a well recognized fact among those who are conducting these tests and who are in a position to know. It is not claimed by the best informed of these men that this test as at present applied is perfect; in fact they admit it is only so to the extent of 90 per cent. That refers, however to the number of animals condemned and slaughtered which are found not to have been suffering from the disease. The test is also imperfect in another way, that it does not determine whether an animal simply has the germ of the disease or whether it is in the advanced stages.

But in my judgment the most pressing necessity is for us to know whether the animals which remain are affected through failure of the test to disclose their true condition. I think it is apparent to every hon. member that great as the danger might be in the condemnation of animals not infected it is slight compared to the danger of leaving animals in the herd in which the disease has not been disclosed by the test. Therefore I would strongly recommend to the minister that before further money is voted for this purpose some investigation should be conducted with a view to finding how accurate the test is as applied to the animals left in the herd. There is only one way in which this can be discovered, and in comparison with the total amount of money expended the cost would be only trifling. A few herds of different breeds in localities where the disease is known to exist should be purchased outright by the government, and after the test has been carefully applied by competent men in the department the animals should be slaughtered and a thorough investigation made to determine whether by any possibility the test falls short of disclosing the disease and thus leaving some infected animals in the herd, which of course would be a greater source of danger because we would be enjoying a sense of false security by the fact that we thought every animal tested was healthy. This is a serious danger and the amount of money involved is sufficient to justify an investigation being undertaken without delay.

In view of the discussion that has taken place during the past week it is perhaps advisable to consider the needs of agriculture to-day. We have been endeavouring in this House and in a special committee to find out just what these needs are. I have no desire

to refer to anything that has taken place in that committee, I merely propose to offer a few suggestions on the point from my practical knowledge of farming conditions. One of the first needs of agriculture is a little sympathetic consideration on the part of other interests in this country. I am well aware, Mr. Speaker, that radical views are held by some members of the farming profession as well as by those of other professions, but one of the first essentials in the solution of any problem is the spirit in which the different interests concerned get together and compare notes and view the problem from various angles. I have never yet heard the statement from a man who has made a careful investigation into agricultural conditions that farming as a commercial proposition could be made profitable. Now, this is a serious state of affairs. I am not one of those who preach blue ruin, but I do believe in looking conditions squarely in the face.

Then there is the attitude of some members of the party to my left, and I trust they will bear patiently with me if I offer any criticism of their conduct. There is a tendency on the part of many of us when we wish to accomplish certain objects in which we are particularly interested to voice the most extreme views in order to make them impressive. I fear the representatives of the farming industry have not been entirely free from this charge. Extreme demands on the part of one class will be met by extremes from other professions and deadlock will result. A disposition to sacrifice a little by way of compromise might furnish a solution for present difficulties. Without such action the situation is almost hopeless.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Would the hon. gentleman tell me just what the agricultural industry could sacrifice to-day to other industries?

Mr. STANSELL: The hon. member is doing just what I was endeavouring by a gentle hint to prevent him doing. I am quite in sympathy with the attitude of other members who think differently from me, and I am always willing to extend to them full liberty of expression of their opinions. As a farmer, I am prepared to say that farmers have made considerable sacrifices; and I must in all justice say as well that many attempts have been made on the part of other interests and of governments to do something to assist the farmers. These efforts may not all have been well directed but it is the part of courtesy and good judgment to give credit for the intentions behind those efforts—just as essential as it is to paint the dark side of the picture regarding agriculture.