

Farm Credit Act

These statistics, Mr. Chairman, prove that the eastern farmers' net income decreased by \$7,749,000 between 1957 and 1959. In fact, of all the eastern provinces, that is to say Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Prince Edward Island, it is only in Prince Edward Island that a net increase of \$2,271,000 has been recorded. In all the other provinces the farmers' income has been subject to very substantial decreases.

In the province of Quebec, the farmers' income for the year 1962 compared to 1952—for a single year—has increased as far as gross income is concerned by about \$21,567,000; but the operating costs having increased by \$82,629,000, the net income of the farmers in the province of Quebec has decreased by \$61,062,000.

Those figures speak for themselves, Mr. Chairman, but it is even more revealing to note on the spot the hard time the farmers have making a living and providing for their families.

Our friends of the old parties may make splendid speeches and try to have us believe that our Canadian farmers are successful, but they will fail in their attempt to convince us.

Mr. Chairman, has any consideration been given to how much a small farmer has to pay for a \$15,000 loan for a 29-year term? It costs him exactly \$991.50 a year or \$85.95 a month. How could a small farmer afford such payments when he gets less and less for his products?

I would ask hon. members opposite to give thorough consideration to the suggestions made from this corner of the house.

The financing of Farm Credit Corporation loans by the Bank of Canada is extremely important. Such a scheme would enable the corporation to make interest-free loans to the farmers who would only have to pay for administration costs.

The improvements to the Farm Credit Act which are put forward by the Social Credit party would bring prosperity to the Canadian farmers. It is possible to do so and we will prove it after the next election, which will bring the Social Credit party to power in Canada.

Mr. Belzile: Mr. Chairman, in my opening remarks, I would like to imitate the member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre (Mr. Pascoe) and to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) for his obvious dedication to the agricultural class in submitting this bill

[Mr. Bernier.]

to the house at the very beginning of the session. This step will undoubtedly put at the disposal of our farmers the assistance they need for their development.

With the leave of the house, I would like to point out a fact which is not directly relevant to the legislation before us, but which, however, is close to the matter the farmers are most particularly interested in.

I would like to mention in all humility that last fall, in November, I had the honour of accompanying the Minister of Agriculture to Europe, more particularly to Rome, where we attended the eleventh international conference on food and agriculture known under the symbol F.A.O. (Food and Agriculture Organization) and which has its headquarters in the holy city.

Mr. Chairman, for a period of three weeks I have been in a position to observe the generosity of the Minister of Agriculture, his devotion to the farm people, his loyalty and his competence in the performance of his duties within the Canadian government. We know that we have accomplished something quite significant for the Canadian farmers. I just happen to remember what the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) was telling us this morning when he said that we should look after ourselves first before thinking about underdeveloped countries and all those hungry people. Their number is appalling, because according to reliable statistics, 70 per cent of the world's population is undernourished, while a few countries have foodstuffs in excess. Some countries are deprived of the required facilities to develop in order to feed their people, and they are also unable to provide an appropriate education.

Now to revert to the question under consideration, I would like to put on the official record the success experienced by that organization called food bank, which was initiated by—

Mr. Drouin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We were very pleased to hear that the hon. member went to Europe as well as the Minister of Agriculture, but it seems to me that five minutes to discuss that matter is enough. He has been transgressing the rules since the beginning of his remarks.

The Deputy Chairman: According to section 59, paragraph 2, I believe the remarks of the