

Mr. SHAVER: That explains the whole situation.

Mr. DONNELLY: That does not explain why the price of dairy butter was twenty-five cents at the time of last election and it is only ten or twelve cents now, although my hon. friends opposite made the people believe that if the Conservative party came into power, they would be getting more for their product. That is the point of the whole argument. My hon. friends opposite made the people believe during the last election they would be getting real money for their butter; it would not be any small, miserable, twenty-five cents.

Mr. BOYES: That is incorrect.

Mr. DONNELLY: The last thing to which I wish to refer is the fact that we arranged in cooperation with the different parts of the British Commonwealth for the establishment of an agricultural research bureau. These are some of the activities of the former Minister of Agriculture for the benefit of agriculture throughout Canada. All I want to say in conclusion is that when the estimates for agriculture are before the house, we hope the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) will be able to throw out a line for our farmers and to give them a ray of hope.

Mr. McINTOSH: Throw out a lifeline.

Mr. DONNELLY: The farmers throughout the country are dreading the prospect of having to leave their farms and under present conditions it looks as though they would have to do so. There is nothing more essential to a country than a prosperous and contented peasantry:

But a bold peasantry, it's country's pride,  
When once destroyed can never be supplied.

It looks to-day as though our farmers will have to leave the land. As a matter of fact, they are doing so, and if conditions as they are continue for very long, more and more of them will have to abandon their farms. We trust and hope the Minister of Agriculture, even at this late date in the session, will be able to give some comfort to those farmers who find themselves in this situation at this time.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): I should like for a few minutes to draw the attention of the house to a condition which exists in western Canada and that is well known to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). I am going to comment upon a

return for which the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) asked the other day. It will be remembered that in the last general election the big question in western Canada as far as agriculture was concerned, was markets. I want to quote two extracts from a speech made by the Prime Minister before I deal with this return. The Prime Minister, when addressing a meeting at Winnipeg a year ago last June, had this to say:

Recognizing that the marketing of our natural products is a foremost factor in our national welfare, I pledge our organization and machinery, in cooperation with private and financial agencies, to permanently establish effective organizations in the countries with which we trade. With these drastic adjustments and improvements to which you are entitled, and with the full employment of our great transportation system, you will have broader markets, and will have them for all time. You have known suffering and have been patient. Let us end it. Take heart.

There are many members who are behind the government to-day who will agree with me that it was the statements made by the present Prime Minister while in Winnipeg that made the greatest contribution to their being members of the House of Commons at this time. Let me quote another statement which the Prime Minister made at the same meeting:

Listen you agriculturists from the west and all other parts of Canada. You have been taught to mock at tariffs and applaud free trade. Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? You say tariffs are only for the manufacturers. I will make them fight for you as well. I will use them to blast a way into the markets that have been closed to you.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. VALLANCE: I hope hon. members will be able to say: "Hear, hear!" when they learn what has been the attitude of the government during this session of parliament with regard to those statements of the Prime Minister. Naturally, we expected that the government would bring down, shall I say some drastic measures or even some suggestions in the way of fulfilling these promises. I was rather amazed when the Prime Minister during this session stood in his place and referred the whole marketing problem to the committee on agriculture. At that time, as a member of that committee, I rose in my place in the house and objected to having the responsibility thrown on to that committee, a responsibility that he had assumed during the last general election.

I said in the beginning that the Prime Minister had some knowledge of the wheat situation. In the return to which I referred, there appears a letter written to the premier of