

Business of Supply

came together were composed, to the extent of 60 per cent or so, of debt for transportation and canal systems that had been built up with the expectation that they would get the cream of the trade from the western United States. Our people did not get it. The people of the United States outfoxed them by building their own canals. Thus, the colonies of the regional parts that became Canada were in great trouble and in great debt. Their inspiration was that if they could only persuade the other colonies to the west of them to come in, somehow or other they could utilize these assets which were built but not paid for such as the canals, railroads and other facilities with which they were stuck. There is no doubt we in the west were consciously or unconsciously considered a colony by the original part of Canada when we joined confederation 100 years ago. There is a vague feeling still of discontent and disappointment in the 100 years that have passed.

• (9:00 p.m.)

The hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) mentioned the matter of tractors a moment ago. This is another nail in the coffin. In Winnipeg there is a tractor company that makes profits which are certainly healthy by any capitalistic standard, yet it undersells other farm machinery companies in a market stretching from the Peace River to Texas and from the Rocky Mountains to Pennsylvania. This indicates there must be something wrong with the farm machinery business, if a medium sized manufacturer in Winnipeg can do so well and still undersell the big fellows.

I think this feeling of alienation will grow if the government does not accept the challenge offered to it by Mr. Barber's report and look into this matter. The government has muscle. It must be able to do something about manufacturers who ride roughshod in the manner that Mr. Barber has indicated.

I must say reluctantly that I was disappointed when the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) presented his motion. While I agree with his sentiments and feelings of frustration, I cannot agree with his motion. The motion in substance censures the government for its failure to use its existing facilities, failure to provide additional facilities for grain and the movement of grain and for the failure to implement a system of payment for grain stored on farms, by reason of which failures the farm grain economy is suffering serious harm. I think the hon. member missed the mark on this motion. The amendment

[Mr. Osler.]

does not help either, because it talks about deficiency payments and a transport controller. I think this also misses the point.

Mr. Korchinski: How would you have worded it?

Mr. Osler: In my mind this is the mark of irrelevance. The farm grain economy is suffering harm, not from these minor details which anybody could tinker around with whether they were bright or stupid, but because it is growing unsaleable crops and grades of grain that cannot be sold. This is a hard fact. It is a fact that I, as a westerner, do not like to admit; but I think the beginning of wisdom is to admit hard facts and act on them.

Our own surveys have belatedly begun to show this. The FAO underlined the fact by saying: Thank God we are liable to have a food surplus in the world in the next little while, and those who grow food in bulk had better watch out because they may be in financial trouble. This is something for mankind to rejoice about. It is something the people of western Canada have to consider seriously. Let us not waste time, then, with motions, amendments and talk about facilities and details. Our facilities have more grain in storage now than they have had in the last two years.

Last year there were 497 million bushels of grain in storage; the year before there were 504 million bushels, and this year there are 516 million bushels. Grain has therefore been moved and put into storage. All we are really saying is that the world has not bought as much grain as we have grown and would like to sell.

An hon. Member: What about the quotas?

Mr. Osler: I will speak to the hon. member later. I repeat, there is something wrong with western agriculture today, but the items referred to in this motion are irrelevant and wide of the mark. Vague feelings of alienation are shared by the hon. members for Mackenzie, the member for Regina East and myself. Westerners will not be served by having these vague feelings of alienation fanned, deliberately or otherwise, by members of this House. The problem is a deep one and must be looked at in a long-term manner. The farm organizations who asked to see the Liberal members from Manitoba during the Christmas recess to talk about their problems were unanimous in saying that the long-term