

paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada during the period of ten years, beginning with the year ending March 31, 1914, for the purpose of aiding and advancing the farming industry by instruction in agriculture, including the work carried on by veterinary colleges.

He said: I know, Mr. Speaker, it is customary in a case of this kind for a minister, on moving that you do leave the Chair, to make a statement of the purposes of the measure. But I do not wish to detain the House on Friday night by speaking at length. My only object now is to introduce this Bill so that it can be printed and distributed amongst the members. I would appreciate it if the House would leave the discussion for a later stage of the Bill after it has been distributed. I wish to express to the right hon. the leader of the Opposition my appreciation of his consent to this course to-night, and to say to the individual members of the House that I would be very glad if they also would allow the resolution to go, pro forma, through committee, and allow me to give full explanation of the Bill on the motion for leave to introduce it.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee on the resolution, which was reported and agreed to.

Mr. BURRELL thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 103, for the granting of Aid for the Advancement of Agricultural Instruction in the Provinces. He said: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman who now leads this House (Mr. Borden) stated to the people of Canada on August 14, 1911, that if he were placed in charge of the Government of the country he would provide for 'the granting of liberal assistance to the provinces for the purpose of supplementing and extending the work of agricultural education, and for the improvement of agriculture.' The Bill which I am asking leave to introduce is intended to be a prompt and complete fulfilment of that promise.

When introducing a measure for the assistance of agriculture last session, I pointed out that it was impossible to move wisely in such a matter without first having a thorough investigation of the whole subject made by a competent man, and in appointing Dr. C. C. James for this purpose the Government felt they were taking the right step in the direction of a constructive agricultural programme. Since that time Dr. James, whose long experience in agricultural matters and whose wide acquaintance with the men who in Canada are solving agricultural problems peculiarly fitted him for the work, has freely and fully consulted with the various provincial governments and with the men in charge of the various agricultural institutions of the country. His task has been to ascertain in what way the federal authorities could best assist the provinces in

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strengthening and developing Canada's great basic industry. I have been in constant touch with Dr. James during the past year, and I gladly here bear testimony to the valuable character of his services. It has been customary to follow investigations such as this, or of other kinds, by elaborate reports, more or less valuable, which too often have found a long resting place in the pigeon hole of a department—unacted upon, 'unwept, unhonoured and unsung.' There is a homely old proverb that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,' and the result of the work which has been carried on and of the careful thought given to the study of this whole question will be found in the terms of the Bill which I have the honour to introduce to the House.

There has been in the Speech from the Throne a reference to the form which such a measure should take, viz., such assistance to agricultural education as would involve continuity of action, and already there have come to me from the principals of the leading Canadian universities, from the heads of agricultural institutions, and from men holding office in various provincial governments, both Liberal and Conservative, many expressions of sympathetic interest in and approval of the suggested line of action.

It is not necessary in this day and hour to defend or justify generous assistance to agriculture. We all recognize the soundness of such a doctrine. To increase the farmers' output; to improve the conditions of rural life; to swell the numbers of those who till the fields,—to do these things, even in the very attempting of them, we are doing something to solve the greatest problems and avert many of the manifest evils that face us in modern life.

Two problems especially confront us to-day, as they confront other nations: the ever-increasing cost of living, with its heavy burdens, and the increase of urban as against rural population. To analyze their cause is not less difficult than to provide their remedy. Free trade England is not less afflicted in this respect than countries with protective tariffs. The two things are intimately related. Congestion in cities is both an economic and a social menace. The swelling of urban population with a diminution in the ranks of the producers has its sequence in the added cost of living, in the increase of squalor, hunger and crime, and,—in a country to which thousands of immigrants come—in the concentration of large masses of the foreign born, who, when unassimilated and unrelated to our national life, constitute both a political and social difficulty.

In the United States prior to the civil war the urban population was twelve per cent. In 1900 it rose to 31 per cent. To-day it stands at the ominous figure of 46 per cent. In Canada we take a natural