

tising for my brother and I did not object for the reason that clowns are never taken seriously, but—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for forty minutes.

Mr. W. J. LOUCKS (Rosetown): Mr. Speaker, I feel happy to have this privilege as a farmer and representing an agricultural constituency, to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) on his budget, I do so, first, because of the royal commission which we are promised, to investigate banks and currency and, second, because of the creation of an agricultural stabilization fund. Let me dwell on the latter for a few moments. I realize that probably some hon. members from the east may feel that we in the wheat growing area are not so much concerned with the thirteen items mentioned in the stabilization fund, but I should like to assure the house that I am very much interested in the stabilization fund in regard to the thirteen items mentioned, more particularly as regards the production of cattle and hogs. I have four miles from my home, a neighbour who is feeding over 200 head so he can regard with pleasure and satisfaction the fact that the government of Canada is taking action in connection with a stabilization fund. Just imagine what it will mean to this particular farmer on over 200 head of cattle this spring, when he gets \$4.60 on the pound sterling! Therefore I am glad to be here to endorse the budget in connection with the stabilization fund. I shall not take time to enumerate all the items mentioned, but they refer to agricultural products.

This shows vividly that after all the criticisms that have been offered, our government have the vision that we must start with agriculture if we are going to get out of the great depression in which we are at present. They have taken these items as a beginning. Some hon. members have offered criticism because the stabilization fund did not cover all commodities, but why should we criticize for that reason? It is a step in the right direction; it covers commodities produced from one end of the country to the other, and the very fact that the government has established this fund shows that it realizes that we must assist the basic industry of this country if we are to get out of the depression.

The hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) is not in his seat, but if he would turn a little more of his attention to agriculture, he might be more hopeful of a solution of the unemployment problem, because if agriculture could be brought back, many of those at present unemployed would find em-

ployment. I do not think I would be extravagant were I to say that in Saskatchewan, if we could only come back to former conditions and have a fair return for what we are producing in that province, we could take care of 100,000 of the unemployed. That in itself would help, and when one considers the nine provinces and the relationship between their populations and the situation, one might well feel we could go a long way towards ending unemployment if we could bring agriculture back to normal. I think we are now pursuing the right course along that line.

We are at present investigating the milk situation. I see the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) has just left the chamber, but I remember at the beginning of this part of the session he introduced a resolution to divide the agriculture committee, the east from the west, because he was convinced that the west was concerned with wheat and wheat only. I think he is assured now that the west is just as much interested in agriculture in general as is any other part of the dominion. As one of the members of the committee on agriculture—and I am not bringing in a report—I may say that there have been some very startling revelations. From what has been revealed before the committee, I wonder how the dairy farmer exists at all. When, as has been shown by at least one witness, a man can start out with an old milk wagon and a horse and become a multimillionaire, while all the farmers are going bankrupt, it is time we tried to find out how such things can be.

I make the statement that I feel, before we are through with this inquiry, we should investigate the packing plants. I should like to see the stockyards investigated, because there is something there that is worth while studying. Before leaving home I was informed that the stockyard at Saskatoon was charging at the rate of \$40 a ton for hay and \$40 a ton for oat chop, while oats are selling for ten cents a bushel and hay is very low. The stockyard is charging the same prices now as it charged when it went into business. As the price of wheat has gone down, the farmers are going more into mixed farming and they are making more shipments to the stockyards. I am sure, before we are through with this inquiry, we shall go further into the investigation why the middleman at this time, in our opinion, is exploiting the agriculturist.

I want to deal with interest rates for the farmer. I heartily endorse the suggestion that has been made in this house that there