

voted millions to help the farmers. That, I suppose, might be called a socialistic act. But the same difficulties are experienced by growers of apples, potatoes and other products; and if as a consequence the farmers stop producing enough food for the people, what will happen then? It is not to my mind any argument to say that free enterprise "can" do this or that; it is necessary that free enterprise "shall" do this and that. That is the situation.

We cannot sell our apples in Quebec because private enterprise cannot buy them, and so it is necessary for our farmers to form co-operative companies in order to can their apples, make apple juice, and so on. Private enterprise was ready for twenty years to organize for the future, but nothing was done. In my opinion this bill will prove to be the salvation of the agricultural interests in this country, and it will also help bring about a better distribution of food throughout the world. I hope that other countries will enact similar legislation so as to prevent a repetition of what occurred in 1932-33.

I am not for socialism, but I am in favour of any legislation which will make it possible for our farmers to produce and sell the food our people require. This should be the case all over the world. We must all co-operate in these times if we want our way of life to be better than it was half a century ago.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Norman P. Lambert: Honourable senators, the last two speeches recall to my mind the haunting refrain of a well-known song entitled "The Song is ended, but the melody lingers on." This bill represents the point of view of organized agriculture in this country. In fact, I do not think this legislation would be before us today if this were not true. The constituency which was served so well by the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), and in a most humble way by myself, has certainly changed fundamentally. I have no doubt that the senator from Churchill still remembers vividly the voices of those from the Middle West who were crying out strongly in favour of a policy of selling anywhere in the world provided they could buy anywhere.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: This point of view amongst the organized portion of agriculture has disappeared, but for how long I do not know. Whether for old-timers like my colleague and myself the song is really ended and just the melody lingers on is something I do not know. Last week it was announced that exchange control has been removed from Canada's financial relations with other

countries. To my mind this is one of the most welcome measures to be announced in a long time, and I think it will challenge all countries affected by it to try to trade their way out of their difficulties and establish the value of their currency by virtue of a freer exchange of goods and the operation of commerce.

We have the classic examples of planned economy in Diocletian of Rome and of Joseph and the corn in Egypt. I suggest that this kind of thing is unsound and cannot be eternally applied. I feel that this year the Agricultural Products Board legislation will work because nature has intervened on behalf of those who will direct the administration of this legislation. I do not think the minimum prices level will be reached in many of these commodities. It will be something like the working of the first Wheat Board in 1919-20. The prices established at that time as a result of the operations of the Wheat Board created for all time the impression amongst the farmer's grain marketing organizations in Western Canada that high prices were to be associated with government marketing. It may not take long for the government of this country to realize, as it did over thirty years ago regarding wheat, that it will not be willing to bear the burdens thrust upon it as a result of the marketing operations of this Agricultural Products Board. It is quite possible that next year nature will provide more bountiful crops, and that there will be an excess production of many of the commodities which are mentioned in this bill. Then, the government will be called upon to shoulder the load, just as every government in the past has been called upon to do in similar circumstances. Possibly the pressure from the Federation of Agriculture and other like bodies will be all the greater then, and the responsibility of the government to the country as a whole will be greater too.

I do not think we should regard this legislation as being unchangeable, and I look forward to seeing it amended so that the real value of farm products may be determined in the intercourse of trade between Canada and other countries.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Thomas Farquhar: Honourable senators, I just wish to make a few remarks at this time. The honourable senator from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Gouin) has just told us in a fine address how Canada is marching on in many ways. While the honourable senator was speaking I was disappointed that our colleague from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) was not in the chamber to hear him.