

*Supply—Agriculture*

However, there are many other types of farmers in Canada. There are dairy farmers, onion farmers, beef producers and others engaged in various branches of farming that I could mention. These people greatly outnumber the wheat farmers. I should like to see the day when the government of Canada will pay some attention to these other branches of agriculture and help them to organize at least to the same extent that the wheat farmers have been able to organize despite the governments that have been in power.

The wheat farmers are not receiving parity at this time, but other farmers in Canada are much worse off. I do not know where the fault lies. I think it lies with these other farmers themselves. They have not organized in order to be able to exert pressure in the same way the wheat farmers have, but I hope they are equally deserving of consideration in this House of Commons.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Chairman, at the outset of my remarks, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) whether he has received a request from the government of the province of Quebec, expressing the desire of the provincial authorities to share in the crop insurance scheme, in order to help the farmers generally, and particularly those specializing in certain crops such as cigar and cigarette tobacco?

At the present time, cigar and cigarette tobacco producers in the province of Quebec sustain considerable losses every year as a result of such weather hazards as frost and hail. Of course, producers of special crops can go to private concerns to ensure their crops, but only at prohibitive cost. That is why I ask the Quebec provincial authorities to co-operate with the federal government in the implementation of this crop insurance scheme, which is a necessity for farmers generally, and particularly those who grow special crops like the ones I mentioned a moment ago.

Cigar and cigarette tobacco is grown in the Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm area. It provides considerable income, not only to the farmers but also to the workers involved in the tobacco processing industries, such as Imperial Tobacco in Joliette and the Cooperative des Tabacs de Saint-Jacques.

I therefore ask the minister to indicate whether the authorities of the province of Quebec have been in touch with him, either by telephone or by letter, because I was reading in *Le Devoir* for February 21, 1961,

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the following statement made by the provincial minister of agriculture:

The days of splendid isolation are over; Quebec intends to and will do its share in the development of agriculture and of all aspects of Canadian life, in co-operation with the federal government and with the governments of Canada's other provinces.

I think it is about time that the government of the province of Quebec made up its mind once and for all to co-operate with the federal government in putting into operation this crop insurance scheme which will be of great benefit to the agricultural class of the province of Quebec.

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has been in existence now for 25 years. May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to this national organization which has been and still is of great service to the agricultural class. A great many agricultural associations of all provinces are members of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. In the province of Quebec, the Union catholique des cultivateurs, the Cooperative federee and the Quebec farmers' association are all members. The U.C.C. and the Cooperative federee each pay about \$6,000 a year for their membership in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. However, I would suggested to the authorities of the federation, to its president and its vice president, Mr. Lemoyne, and to its other directors, that the brief which the Canadian Federation of Agriculture submits every year to the government should be in both languages.

The federation recently submitted a brief to the federal government, but it was in one language only. I think it is most important that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture take steps to correct this situation and submit its annual brief in both languages.

Mr. Chairman, Quebec turkey breeders have been living anxious hours at the thought that the federal government would yield to pressures for the removal of controls over the importation of turkeys from the United States. The maximum import quota was 4 million pounds.

I know the members of the opposition support the removal of tariffs. I have a letter from the Cooperative avicole du Quebec, asking me to urge the Minister of Agriculture not to yield to demands or pressure for the removal of tariffs or quotas. I quote:

In 1960, such imports reached 6½ million pounds, including all turkey meat other than whole turkeys. This figure is equal to one sixth of the total Canadian production, and to 6 per cent of the tremendous American production, estimated at about