

interests of agriculture in my province. I do ask, however, that the granting of subsidies be not confined to co-operative or municipal bodies but be extended also to companies duly incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act of Nova Scotia or the Canadian Companies Act, having in view the erection of cold storage plants. I have stated that the people of western Nova Scotia are handicapped; they have no market for their fruit, their vegetables, their meats, and so on, and the government should do all they can to enable these people to conserve what they produce and get a legitimate return for their labour. But to come here and philosophize and to oppose the measure because it does not happen to favour one constituency is not in the best interests of agriculture in my province. I say again to the hon. member for Halifax that the city and county of Halifax do not constitute the whole of Nova Scotia; the portions of the province which bear the burden and heat of the day are the country districts, particularly the agricultural districts. On these the province must eventually depend; therefore, everything within reason should be done in their interests.

Mr. JOHN MORRISON (Weyburn) Mr. Speaker, the introduction of this bill opens up a question in connection with which a big principle is at stake. It is quite evident that there is great difference of opinion as to the best methods of helping the cold storage business. I am afraid I shall incur the displeasure of the member for Hants (Mr. Martell), as the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean) has done by opposing this measure. I realize the great necessity for giving all possible encouragement to the cold storage business, but, like the hon. member for Halifax, I am of the opinion that the bill in its present form is not in the best interests of all concerned. I realize that the men in Nova Scotia who are growing apples, the potato growers and the fishermen, the farmers in Ontario and Quebec and in the western provinces—they all need cold storage facilities. But hon. members know that we are in much trouble in Canada to-day as a result of this pernicious system of subsidies. It opens up a big question; we are going to have demands from many quarters for bounties by the government, just as we have had them in the past. I think public opinion is changing; the people are tired of giving subsidies. The minister told us that \$2,408,384 had been spent in twelve years in thirty-four plants, and that to these the government had granted by way of subsidies, \$722,506. I think a much better way would be to give long-term loans at very low rates of interest,

and these could be returned to the public treasury without any hardship on the borrower. I believe they would conduct their business better if they knew they had to return the money, for it pauperizes many people to give them grants. It is a pernicious system, either for the individual or a corporation. We can all recall instances in our own locality of companies getting grants from towns or provincial governments on the understanding that they were to do so and so, and as soon as they got their hands on the money they would turn the tables in some way, go broke or by some manoeuvre get out of their contract, and the parties making the grant would have no redress, and the public would not get the service intended. I am not objecting to the bill in this form for the purpose of putting obstacles in the way of the minister. I merely want to do what I think is best, and we can see from the discussion already that there is going to be a demand from different places if the bill goes through in its present form. The minister will simply be bombarded with requests for big grants for particular districts. But if people know that they are not going to get a free grant, but a loan—

Mr. MARTELL: You want the Hudson Bay railway, do you not?

Mr. MORRISON: I am not asking for any free grant for that road, for the very reason I have given. Railway subsidies have been the curse of Canada, and have been the cause of the biggest problem confronting parliament to-day. It is that very principle I am speaking against. If you give a subsidy to one, others have a right to expect it. The whole practice should be stopped. I am not going to be a party to something that will help farming, and then have Montreal and Toronto come and ask for ten or fifty million dollars and say: Well, you got \$100,000 for your constituency; why cannot we have something for ours? The principle is wrong, and there is a good remedy. It is the lack of credit for cold storage, which is so great a necessity in this country, that is the difficulty, and that lack of credit only proves to my mind that we have a poor financial system in Canada, or money would be available for this business on long term loans. I am in favour of giving approved loans on good security for cold storage wherever they are necessary, but I feel in duty bound to oppose the bill in its present form.

Mr. DAVID SPENCE (Parkdale): When this discussion was up the other night I