

This budget brings me joy, because it will allow the government to work out some measure in regard to the rural credit scheme.

I am very sorry to find that so worthy and able a man as the hon. leader of the opposition has discovered in this some manoeuvre favouring my party. I am also sorry to see that a measure announced by His Excellency the Governor General, in his Address from the Throne, a measure so necessary and so prolific in benefits to the farming class, has been the object of attack, to the extent of giving the impression that it was a bait to draw the hon. members of the Progressive party to cast their votes with the government. Yet this legislation was necessary, it was and is still urgent.

To promote farming is but to want the country's prosperity; to give generously and wisely to farmers is to accomplish a patriotic work and consequently one that is truly national. I now turn towards those who understand farming, I ask the hon. members of the Progressive party—they who know what amount of labour is required in operating a farm, until is reaped the golden wheat which produces bread, those who are accustomed to feel the burning rays of a July sun and to feel their hands hardening with the daily farm routine—I put the question to them as well as to the great army of noble toilers of the land of whom they are the worthy representatives here: has the Liberal government brought down this rural credit measure only to please you? Would we be a prey to selfish feelings such as are unknown to you? You approve of this measure because it favours the farmer, it matters little whether he lives in Ontario, Quebec or the Maritime provinces. Do the high winds of your vast, prolific and fertile prairies bring to eastern Canada selfishness or freedom? They bring freedom and you rejoice in the success of the eastern farmers, as they themselves rejoice when Providence bestows upon you an abundant crop. No, this rural credit is a measure resting on justice and equality, and I shall always find it strange that a measure destined to produce such excellent results can be the object of spiteful attacks. We have, for many years, claimed this rural credit system in the province of Quebec.

During a number of years, I had the honour of being the president of the Farmers' Association of the parish of Lake Megantic, and I had advocated this measure long ago. Last autumn, in Montreal, at the annual meeting of the members of the Catholic Farmers' Union of the Province of Quebec—in which more than 1,200 delegates took part—resolutions asking for this measure were

adopted. Later on, when this question is under consideration, I shall submit these resolutions to the House.

Moreover, the hon. Minister of Agriculture of the province of Quebec, who was present at this meeting, spoke in favour of it and expressed the hope that some day the Dominion Government would come to an understanding with the various provincial governments to have such a measure adopted. He also expressed the hope that the banks and the co-operative societies, on agreement, might be of great help in the effective working of the rural credit system. We are aware that here and there private industries fail for lack of funds or lack of co-operation. After making a start with that so beneficial grant to the rural credit system, the government, I trust, will find it possible before long to advance funds, in order that associations may be formed in the most important localities, toward facilitating the canning of a number of products, and through this medium farming will find itself greatly benefited: the farmers, in the vicinity of these important localities but at a distance from large centres, will find an easy market for the sale of their garden products. I shall always lend my support to such a measure, because to my mind there lies the source of the welfare of the farming class. I wish to let my hon. friends of the opposition know that if I support the measure in connection with the rural credit system, I do not do so with the aim implied in their criticisms, but for the welfare of the whole country. I further wish to add that it would be proper and wise to have a well organized propaganda, aiming at pointing out to the farmer the great usefulness of a system of book-keeping, and especially in connection with an act providing for a system of farm loans. Who, during the last electoral campaign, did not witness how one sought to have the people of this Dominion believe that the country was going to ruin, governed, so it was stated, by an administration who did not understand the true economic interests of the country. People who read certain newspapers saw the farmers leaving their lands to cross the border seeking elsewhere the bread which, it was said, had been taken away from them in this country. They saw large armies of workers with starvation staring them in the face and reflected in their clothes, seeking work and finding none. The manufacturer was pictured as standing on the threshold of his factory and turning away his whole staff because, he said, the government gave them no protection. Yes, I saw them