

Supply—Agriculture

nations wants, will just have to die of hunger unless they can do something to solve the problem in their own countries.

I have not endeavoured to go into any particular detail in respect of those four problems, but I submit, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Agriculture ought to go into each of these matters with a great deal of care. He should call together his experts and be ready to tell us at the appropriate time all that he has available for the use of the country in respect of storage and production in an orderly way in Canada, and fertilizers and marketing. In due time we shall ask him to give us the information which he has accumulated in respect of these matters.

Mr. McIvor: Mr. Chairman, I have not been a farmer lately; but as I sat in this house and listened to the farmer members from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, and even from Brant-Haldimand, I felt sorry for the plight the farmers of Canada found themselves in. I did see considerable hope in the fact that they are not in as bad a position today as they were 30 years ago. My proof of that is the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture today that the growth was steady. I think I am guilty of speaking on what I know, and I am looking to find out the X, or what I do not know.

There are a good many farmers in the Fort William district, Mr. Chairman, 50 miles south and 125 miles west. We have had the champion potato grower of all of Canada in our district. Therefore, I say we do not need to take second place to any place, not even to Saskatchewan, for good farmers. I have respect for our farmers. They are intelligent; they are faithful workers and they do not spend all their time on the highways burning up gas. I know the farmers in our district have to pay a considerable amount in income tax, which shows that they have something left to live on.

We have two men in our district who do a great deal to help our farmers. One represents the government of Ontario, and he is a good man even though that government is Conservative. He goes everywhere. He keeps the farmers posted with up-to-date information; he helps them in a good many ways, and the farming in the district is greatly helped and production is greatly improved because of his services. The other man is the federal man, Mr. Knight, who has charge of the agricultural substation. He is just like his fellow worker. They work hand in hand, co-operating thoroughly. The farmers around Fort William are doing a splendid job. They have a potato club. They set a mark of 500 bushels to the acre.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Hon. members will be surprised to know how many men go over 500 bushels. I knew one man who had 773 bushels to the acre. They have an oat club. Competition amongst the farmers is very keen.

It is a great pleasure to go out in the country in the summertime and meet the farmers at a baseball game. It is very fine to go out in the winter, too, and see their hockey clubs in competition among themselves, which shows that the young people on the farm are enjoying themselves.

I rose to ask the minister a question. I congratulate the hon. member for Lethbridge on the number of questions he asked. The more questions that he asks the Minister of Agriculture the better the minister will like it and the more information the hon. member will get.

Somebody from Saskatchewan said that the farmers of Saskatchewan paid more income tax than all the other farmers in Canada. I am not sure whether I am right in saying that, but if my impression is correct I can tell you, judging from the farmers around Fort William, that the farmers in Saskatchewan are not so terribly hard up.

I am going to ask the minister to comment on that situation. If a man can pay income tax he certainly has something left to live on.

I congratulate the minister on the statement he made today. I was going to make some criticism of certain aspects of it but I would only make myself look foolish in the face of the statement the minister made today which was straightforward, clear cut and according to the facts. Thank you for your patience.

Mr. Thatcher: This morning the Minister of Agriculture devoted a good portion of his time to dealing with the Canadian butter situation. I should like to comment on that policy again, as I have done on previous occasions.

I think the minister can take pride in the fact that most parties in the house appear to approve of his butter policy. Certainly the hon. member for Brant-Haldimand expressed approval this afternoon; members of the C.C.F. group agree with it, and I think with certain modifications the Social Credit group also is in accord. However, although I realize that very few hon. members agree with me—

An hon. Member: Hurray.

Mr. Thatcher:—I think the government's butter policy is shortsighted and economically unwise. As the house knows, it is, in the first place, costing the taxpayer directly a good deal of money. I believe the minister