

people of Canada who are outside the flood area. I have a pulp and paper town in my riding, Powell River, 100 miles north of the Fraser valley, whose people are as far removed from the farmers of the Fraser valley in every way as any city dwellers. Nevertheless the union there, 1,500 strong, had a meeting; and at that meeting they, first of all, put their own house in order by voting one day's pay from every man to the Red Cross for relief. That is a substantial sum, running from \$8 to \$20 a man. Having thus established their right to speak about financial aid, they put themselves right behind this threefold program. First of all, they said, the important thing is to re-establish the farmers. Second, they have a suggestion, which the income tax department can review, that the farmers' income tax for this year be waived. They say they have enough troubles without being bedevilled by the income tax people. However, I imagine most of them have already paid their income taxes. Third, they ask for this long-range program of proper diking and flood control.

Hon. members, too, have shown the greatest interest. I am sure that every British Columbia member—and I know at times we are rather obstreperous about our problems—has been very grateful of the way in which hon. members from every part of Canada have evidenced great interest in this unusual disaster which has befallen the richest and most lush farm land in British Columbia.

So I will close by again urging that the third part of the program announced by the Prime Minister on June 9 be immediately implemented and the farmers of the country be told quite clearly what program of re-establishment and rehabilitation is to be commenced by the two governments.

Mr. E. D. FULTON (Kamloops): I know, Mr. Speaker, that the house has listened with the greatest of interest and appreciation to the illuminating and constructive address just given by the hon. member for Vancouver North (Mr. Sinclair). It was illuminating in that it dealt with the circumstances of the flood this year, and it was constructive in the steps which he has suggested to the government that they might well take to re-establish the farmers of British Columbia and of the Fraser valley area.

However, certain matters were not covered by him. In addition to the points mentioned by the hon. member for Vancouver North, there are certain questions on which I think the people of that province would like to hear a statement from the government. First, they would like to know whether the relief to be afforded by the federal government will be

extended to the portions of the province which have been seriously damaged, but which do not lie in the Fraser river delta. This question was not covered by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the statement which he made on June 9, which was referred to by the hon. member who has just spoken. The Prime Minister's statement covered exclusively relief and rehabilitation in the Fraser river valley. When I asked him whether the same principles would apply to the rest of the province at the other points which have been damaged he said, as reported at page 4936 of *Hansard*:

My statement relates to floods in the Fraser river valley only.

Then I asked him whether discussions were under way or whether they had been held with respect to damage occasioned in other areas. He replied that other areas had been considered and that "matters with respect to them are still open." So that the people in the interior of the province, from my own constituency in the valleys of the Thompson rivers, in the Nicola valley, at Lillooet on the upper Fraser as well as in the Kootenay districts and the towns of Kimberley and Trail and to some extent also at Revelstoke where damage has been occasioned or is imminent, would very much like to know immediately whether the same terms for the prevention of floods or damage in the immediate future, the rehabilitation of the flood works and especially relief and compensation for damage suffered will be extended to those other areas of the province as are now being applied in the Fraser river valley. I agree wholeheartedly with the hon. member who has just spoken when he says that point three of the Prime Minister's statement, the relief and compensation to be provided, should be the subject of an announcement in the immediate future. But I urge that the rest of the province is entitled to this same full consideration and is entitled to know the details of that consideration in the same measure as received by those in the Fraser river delta.

The other point on which the people of our province would like to have some assurance relates to what is, as the hon. member for Vancouver North pointed out, a less immediate problem, but it is still one of some urgency. They would like to know what steps the federal government will take in conjunction with the provincial authorities to prevent the repetition of such disasters in the future. The hon. member for Vancouver North has, I will not say belittled the construction of dams, but he has said that their construction would not prevent floods, and he has cited the two dams on the Columbia river. I agree with him that the construction of dams alone, well