

that gives us nine times as much production. Not only that, on this tractor we have lights so that we can use it all day long and all night long if we wish. My father could plow for eight hours only. A tractor of this kind with its lights can be used for a full 24 hours of the day if we wish. That would be three times as long, so we have 27 times the production we had in those old days on the farm.

Honourable senators, you need not mind the exactness of my mathematics. The facts are that with the combines, tractors and other farm machinery of today the farmer is not comparable with the farmer of those old days. Legislation of this kind becomes imperative. It is not that we want to go into syndicates or sign notes. It is because the farmer today simply must have this machinery that will keep up with the times, not for local consumption or life on the farm but in order that farmers in Canada can compete with farmers abroad who have adopted high machinery qualifications for their work. There has been talk here about our markets abroad. Certainly, if we were to continue farming as my father farmed many years ago, we would not be able to compete with the Russians, for instance, who are making more and more tractors and enlarging their farms and becoming up to date. We, too, must keep in pace with the progress of our times.

Gentlemen, this is not an ideal bill. I shall not go into it in detail. There are strong objections to the signing of a note of this kind. I would not advise it to any client of mine except, as I said, under exceptional circumstances. But why not give the farmer the opportunity? He has just as much intelligence as we have here. Why not give him the opportunity to use this bill if he so desires? It is another string to his bow. He may get himself into trouble but that, gentlemen, is his business, not ours. If we present him with an opportunity which he may use, he probably will thank us for it. It is a step in the right direction in the mechanization of our farms, the increasing of our production and, above all, the reduction in the cost of production on the farm which will make us competitive in the markets abroad.

While I am not enthusiastic about this bill I certainly am going to vote for it.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** I must inform honourable senators that if honourable Senator Connolly speaks now, it will have the effect of closing the debate.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** Honourable senators, I am sure we have all enjoyed the debate on this measure which has taken

place this afternoon. I suppose it proves many things. It seems to me to prove in the first place that if you scratch a lawyer hard enough or long enough you may find a farmer or an agriculturist. We certainly uncovered a few here this afternoon.

I thank Senator Pearson for his remarks. I am not as pessimistic as he is about the prospects for the success of this legislation. I am not too optimistic either about the prospects of success for those lawyers who may think of getting a lot of business out of drawing these syndicate or partnership agreements. I think it is the intention, as I indicated last night, that the Farm Credit Corporation will have a good deal to do with the preparation of these agreements and will help those farmers who desire to form a syndicate, in drawing agreements, in the knowledge they have gathered from the British experience and from what they know about matters of this kind.

Senator Pearson referred to the risk involved in the partnership, particularly arising out of the joint and several liability on the note. I cannot speak out of personal experience, but I would think that the farmer is as sharp and as acute about entering into a partnership as any man from any other segment of society. I would think that farmers would choose their partners with a good deal of discernment.

As Senator Stambaugh mentioned, no one is forced to enter one of these partnerships or syndicates. As Senator Roebuck said, this is another facility available as a source of credit for the farming community.

I thank Senator Welch for the references he made, particularly to the agricultural problems in Maritime Canada. He stated that this legislation is a far cry from all that is needed. I am the first to admit that is so and I have had to say this about the Farm Credit bill and about the Small Loans bill. In themselves, none of these measures will solve the problem of the farmer. However, even if this bill is but a flea bite in one sense, it could have a fairly wide application for good.

I was pleased to hear Senator Inman refer to the co-operative aspect of farming in the great Province of Prince Edward Island. I think that what she described as the attitude of farmers one to another there is something which was behind the thinking that went into the making of this bill.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** May I ask the leader a question? He said that there is no compulsion. Perhaps he has never been through the experience of being the only likely man to join to buy some expensive machinery. You may not favour it but, because of Mrs. So and So and because of the farmers