

cream separators and ten per cent on barbed wire? This agreement is not a help but a detriment to the farmer.

When will the government wake up to the fact that we will never have prosperity in this country until the farmer can sell his products at a profit in order that he may have some buying power? You can have all the treaties you like, you can have all the agreements you like but until the farmer has money to spend for the necessities of life and even for the luxuries, the present condition of this country will continue.

I believe that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) is sincere in his efforts and that he is endeavouring to do what is right, but I am afraid he is throttled by the other members of the cabinet. I do not think they pay any attention at all to the basic industries, every thing goes to their friends the manufacturers. I am sorry the minister is not in his place, but I say to him: Do something to help the basic industries of this country, and you, at least, will receive some credit. The government as a whole will never get credit because ever since they came into power they have retarded agriculture, but if that industry can be brought back to prosperity, the whole country will share in that prosperity. The time will come when that will be so, although I am afraid it will not be under this government. However it will come under the government of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) after the next elections.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes at my disposal I do not propose to follow the wild and reckless statements of the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Sanderson). His statements were more like what would be expected to come from an irresponsible man on the street rather than a respectable member of parliament. There was not a single argument which he made from the beginning to the end of his speech which had any bearing upon the subject now before the house. His remarks were simply a conglomeration of wild and reckless opinions held probably by himself but not by an hon. member in this house or anyone throughout the country.

Parliament has been called together at a very inconvenient time for hon. members. We have been called here to perform a definite duty, to ratify the agreements arrived at in this city last August, agreements which I believe stand unique in the history of this or any other country. When I visited the conference last August I was greatly impressed when I saw gathered here men from the four

[Mr. Sanderson.]

corners of the earth, men of various creeds, colours, complexions and languages, united together for one definite purpose—mutual assistance to the different parts of the empire. They met in the shadow of one of the greatest depressions the world has ever seen, probably greater than anything since Christ was on earth, a depression which has left its trail across the whole world. In that trail we have unemployment, hardship, poverty, depression in business and in commodity prices. The brightest minds of the empire were gathered together in Ottawa for the recent imperial conference. We had premiers and ex-premiers, cabinet members, the most eminent men in public life in all parts of the empire. They met here, and after due deliberation drafted in a spirit of mutual assistance the agreement that is now before parliament for ratification. We have been here, sir, since 6th of October and we have heard speaker after speaker on the other side of the house get up and, like actors in a movie picture, take their seats and leave us with nothing but the sound of their voices. As far as the opposition is concerned this debate is one of the greatest farces that I have ever listened to in this house. I challenge any member of the opposition now to get up and say that he would like to see this agreement defeated. The silence, Mr. Speaker, is impressive. But I do not need to ask them, because there has not been a member on the other side of the house who has had the courage to get up and move the rejection of this agreement. Not one of them will dare to stand up and move that the treaty legislation be not now read but six months hence, because they know that if they did they would never reenter this house. The country is behind these agreements and whether they will do all that we expect of them or not, at least they hold out some hope to a depressed people, and the people of this country, I firmly believe, want them passed into law. Under those circumstances why is it that we have to sit here week after week with members of the opposition debating something that they dare not move to rescind?

I want to quote a sentence from the address of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). Speaking in this house the other day he said that he himself was in favour of the agreement now before the house.

He said:

If hon. gentlemen opposite will compare this list—

He is speaking of the imperial conference of 1923, which he attended:

—with what has been presented to us in the report tabled by my right hon. friend, they