

Supply—Agriculture

population. When this is achieved I can assure the government that we will have gone a long way toward solving one of the most crucial economic problems of the maritime provinces, namely, unemployment.

I think we can already point to certain successful enterprises in the agricultural field in the maritimes where there has been a departure from traditional farm practices. In the co-operative field, for instance, the maritime co-operative services is proving a distinct success, while in the field of private endeavour there are Canada Foods Limited at Kentville, Nova Scotia, and Groves Limited at Berwick, Nova Scotia, which are operating important fruit and vegetable canning businesses. At Hartland, New Brunswick, there is the McCairn Foods Limited which is operating a successful fruit and vegetable processing plant. I think there are also similar plants in operation in other parts of the maritime provinces. We have also heard in the maritimes of the co-operative enterprise by Nova Scotia farmers to build an abattoir at Halifax. As a distinct result of that project, farmers in that province have already been urged to increase their hog production.

This is but an indication of what could result in every other field of farm production if facilities were made available on a more general basis to maritime farm people. Let us therefore put our heads together with a view to contriving more intensive and more flexible farming practices in order to attain an agricultural production in the maritime provinces which will at least be sufficient to meet the needs of our local population.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, I listened very attentively to the statement made earlier this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness) regarding support prices on dairy products. That statement is of great interest to farmers in the maritimes because, as I have indicated, dairying is the very backbone of agriculture in the maritimes. And I am sure that dairy farmers will be pleased to hear that the government intends to maintain at 64 cents a pound the support price on butter production.

A certain amount of cheese is also produced in the maritimes. So the minister's statement should cause no trouble in the cheese industry.

However I hardly expect milk powder producers to be as enthusiastic over the statement made by the minister this afternoon. I know that certain plants have just completed large alterations and expanded their facilities for the production of milk powder; and I am sure the minister's statement will be quite a blow to those people.

[Mr. Michaud]

It seems to me that when the Department of Agriculture or the government are contemplating a move such as was announced this afternoon, they should give advance notice to interested parties so as to spare them the difficulties they will now have to face.

(Text):

Mr. Smallwood: Mr. Chairman, at this time I should like to spend a few moments referring to the remarks made by the hon. member for Assiniboia about the way in which western members had betrayed western Canada. I am sorry that the hon. member is not in his seat, but if his colleague would care to go up and get him I would be glad to repeat my remarks while he is in the chamber, because I would prefer he was in the house at the time I am making them.

I can assure the committee that I have not betrayed either my constituents or western Canada. I still live on my farm and in my constituency. I did not leave my people and move to Ottawa. I am still living there with my people. But it seems to me that ever since we came into this house we have had to listen to irresponsible remarks by the hon. member for Assiniboia.

We have only been in power for one year. During that period, however, this government has enacted the Agricultural Stabilization Act. It has amended the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and the Canadian Farm Loan Act. It has also amended the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, made a start on the South Saskatchewan dam project, has amended the P.F.A.A. and authorized subsidiary payments to western grain growers. Prairie farm assistance amounted to \$25 million; acreage payments amounted to \$41,300,000; the surplus disposal plan for wheat, to \$35 million; interest on cash advances, \$1 million, and storage charges, \$37 million; a total of \$139,300,000. And yet we have these irresponsible people in the C.C.F. group getting up and saying we have done nothing. I wonder why they do not take the trouble to look over the figures.

We have today a Prime Minister who knows more about the troubles of western Canada than any previous prime minister. He has representatives here from the farms of western Canada working together with him. We do not meet the press every day with a bunch of irresponsible remarks, but we are working, together with the Prime Minister, for the betterment of agriculture and for the betterment of this country. It is time the people