

*Agricultural Conditions*

This is one of the things spoken of several times during the speech of the Minister of Agriculture. He said that probably too much money had been spent along this line. This seed cleaning plant is self supporting. There is no other system of inspection in any department which pays its own way, except that of wheat inspection. This government has taken out of the farmers something like \$1,700,000 more than it needed and there is in the public funds of this country that amount of money which rightly belongs to the wheat growers of western Canada.

Last year or in the previous year we said: You cannot raise cattle unless you have pure bred stock; you cannot grow good wheat or other grain unless you have pure seed. We said: We think some of this \$1,700,000 that is lying in the national treasury and that belongs to the western farmers, should be taken out and given to them in order to establish a seed cleaning plant. We took some of that money; we did not as a matter of fact take much more than the interest on it, and we erected a seed cleaning plant at Moose Jaw. That plant is still in existence and it is a place where a man may go in order to get pure, clean seed. In this country at this time, the necessity for such a plant is greater than ever, because we want to know where we can get clean grass seed in order to have a rotation of crops which seems to be essential at present in western Canada. The plan outlined at that time was to erect another of those plants in Alberta and one in Manitoba. I do not think eastern interests or anybody else should have anything to say with regard to this. It is the wheat grower's money and he has a right to take it and use it as he chooses. As long as what has been done is satisfactory to the wheat growers of the west, outsiders in eastern Canada should not have anything to say about the matter. It is the wheat grower's money that has been taken from him in connection with the inspection and grading of his wheat.

Another thing that was done was to take the initial steps for holding a world seed fair at Regina this year. I believe such a fair will do much to enlighten the farmers in regard to growing proper seed.

Then in 1923 we had the prohibition of the importation of oleomargarine. This is something which our Conservative friends like to forget. During the session of that year there was quite a discussion in regard to the importation of oleomargarine. The former Minister of Agriculture fought strenuously for the prohibition of its importation. Many

[Mr. Donnelly.]

of our Conservative friends supported its importation, but they like to forget all about that, and say they were in favour of prohibiting it. The record, however, shows otherwise. In 1917 some 14,000,000 pounds of oleomargarine were imported and I believe that if in 1930 it had been allowed to be brought in, something like 30,000,000 pounds would have been imported.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the hon. gentleman say that 30,000,000 pounds entered Canada in 1930?

Mr. DONNELLY: No; I said that if the importation had not been prohibited, I believe 30,000,000 pounds would have been imported. I know the importations were stopped in 1923.

Mr. BENNETT: The extent of the hon. gentleman's imagination is amusing.

Mr. DONNELLY: It would not take very much imagination to believe, when the price of butter was so high during the Liberal regime in 1929, that oleomargarine could readily have found a market in this country.

Mr. VALLANCE: It would not to-day.

Mr. DONNELLY: No, because the price of butter is not very high now. It would be cheaper to buy butter. As I said in the house some time ago, it takes about two pounds of butter to buy a pound of axle grease. Some farmers are using their butter for axle grease.

Mr. SHAVER: The hon. member has made that statement before about its taking two pounds of butter to buy a pound of axle grease. Where does that condition obtain?

Mr. DONNELLY: In western Canada.

Mr. SHAVER: It does not obtain in this part of the country.

Mr. DONNELLY: The price of butter is much lower in the west than in the east. The farmers can get only from ten to twelve cents a pound for it at the country stores, and they pay from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound for axle grease.

Mr. BOYES: Why do they not take their cream to the creameries?

Mr. DONNELLY: In many sections of the country hon. members must realize that farmers are from twenty-five to thirty miles from a railway, and it would hardly pay a farmer to haul his milk daily to the railway to ship to a creamery.