

Canadian Centennial

speech, and gradually implemented in succeeding weeks convey the sincerity of this approach. I think we can now see that the fascinating array, this furious play within a play from time to time on benches opposite, can be dismissed as mere auditions for a January spectacle. All parts of the country alike must share in the prosperity of Canada, and through a broad and unbiased national outlook this will be achieved. The proposed resolution and suggested committee are in exact agreement with the very things we are at present doing. The very opening day of this session, in the words of Her Majesty, this government gave notice of its intention of correcting much of the economic imbalance inherited from the previous administration. The bill we have passed effecting cash advances for farm-stored grain will go some distance in aiding the static and reduced economy of the prairie farmer. It will affect my county and bring timely employment and increased business right across the nation, but it will take some years to change, in more basic fashion, the neglectful loss of markets and the subsidized competition from neighbour countries we have experienced from time to time.

We know, sir, that bills will soon be brought down to aid the mixed agricultural areas of the east, where the farmer has not yet quite resigned himself to the position of an often forgotten figure. The notice of legislation to ensure permanent floor prices is welcomed indeed, and we know that the details will be rapidly worked out and put into effect. One of the earliest actions of this government was to take steps to regulate the importation of turkeys and fowl from the United States. This measure has been of great value to the poultry industry, and many people engaged in it in my county. Halton lays claim to some of the richest mixed farming land in eastern Canada. Our livestock industry, predominantly dairy, serves millions of people in the nearby urban centres. Choice fruit and market garden land in considerable acreage predominates the southern end of our county. For years, the dumping of United States products has worked great hardship on these people, and it is our sincere hope that some changes will soon be forthcoming. As mentioned in the throne speech, farmers must be assured of a fair share of the national income and means that will be brought about to provide greater price stability are awaited with keen interest.

There is another matter which might be added to the general planning program and policies which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre makes in his resolution. In the

[Mr. Best.]

great meeting place of producers and consumers of agricultural products in the Toronto-Hamilton area, and the counties of Halton and Peel, there has been a long and growing demand for changes in our livestock processing methods. The humane slaughter of food animals has become general in most civilized countries of the world, but Canada and the United States lag far behind. I would call on the federal government at this time, Mr. Speaker, to enact or enforce legislation, to co-operate in every way with the provincial governments whose chief responsibility it is, to remedy this difficult and unnecessary situation. I realize a study of this matter is now taking place, and we can only hope that it will be effective in the near future.

The proposed resolution mentions the need for planning in the fields of conservation, irrigation and power projects. These have long been objectives of the Conservative party as well, and definite steps have been taken to put these plans into practice. It is hoped that the royal commission on energy will give us long-range recommendations for charting our future plans. The announcement of financial assistance for the maritimes through aid for construction of the Beechwood project in New Brunswick, and the intention to proceed as soon as possible, as the Prime Minister has said from time to time, with the Columbia river and South Saskatchewan dam projects, all show the intent and broad planning of this government.

My hon. friend mentioned the need for both federal and provincial representatives on the proposed committee. There has been, perhaps, no more important move of the present government than the calling of the dominion-provincial conference which met just two weeks ago today. There was seen in that two-day meeting I would suggest, sir, under that great map of Canada and that long, greying picture of the fathers of confederation, a spirit of co-operation and mutual interest that had not been displayed for a long, long time. This government listened; it did not tell. This was just the beginning—

Mr. Pickersgill: That is quite true.

Mr. Best: Yes, it listened; it did not tell.

Mr. Pickersgill: No one learned anything.

Mr. Best: This was just the beginning of a fairer and more just plan for each and every province, a beginning of a more unified and unitedly prosperous country. This, then, is the beginning once again, through practical and sensible channels, of the intention and spirit of that part of my hon. friend's resolution. This government, working with the provinces in normal and tested channels, is already carrying out its plans and policies.