

and I believe that is true. Therefore I wish to join with those who have urged upon the government the necessity of giving better attention, if possible, to the needs of the farmer, especially the eastern farmer who, rightly or wrongly, feels that he has been more or less neglected, perhaps because he is less vocal and less organized than his western confrère. The eastern farmer needs aid to adjust his methods to modern conditions, to improve his produce and to keep his markets.

I have been told by an official of the Quebec Department of Agriculture that three-quarters of the foodstuffs consumed in the large eastern cities come from foreign countries, although these cities, such as Montreal and Quebec, are situated in the middle of the richest farming country. Some say that a seasonal tariff would be a remedy. It is possible, but I rather believe that education and improvement in production and marketing methods would be more effective. In this connection I wish to mention the good service rendered to farmers by the demonstration and illustration stations of the Agriculture department and to congratulate the minister and his deputies, Doctor Grisdale and Doctor Charron, three real friends of the farmers, for their wonderful work in this respect. These stations do not cost much, and the good they do is immense. I have a few in my county, but not enough, and I know whereof I speak; we should have more. They are worth carloads of books of instructions and theories and millions of lectures, because examples are stronger than anything else. In those stations the farmers see the result which can be obtained by the best methods of cultivation. I venture to urge upon the Department of Agriculture the establishment of many more of those stations, in order to render agriculture more successful and more paying. They would teach our farmers to grow what the market demands; they would instruct them in the use of proper fertilizers, and in the classification, grading and preparation of their produce for the market, etcetera.

I would also ask assistance in favour of young breeders' clubs, one of which is functioning with great success in my county, at St. Michel, and recently obtained a first prize in competition with the whole country. They are the best thing to encourage the improvement of dairy herds and of cattle generally.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating the government on the very creditable record of achievements which the budget of the hon. the Minister of Finance has disclosed. More

especially do I wish to congratulate them upon having re-established in the country that happy condition of peace, harmony, understanding and *bonne entente* between the different parts, classes and people, without which prosperity would have not been possible.

Mr. ECCLES J. GOTT (South Essex): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes that I shall occupy the time of the house I propose to discuss briefly some of the issues that are of major importance to the people in the riding which I have the honour to represent, where I am sorry to say, the plight of the farmer is such and conditions have been aggravated by the inaction of the government to such an extent that it would be hard for me to portray conditions as they actually exist. There are several reasons for that, some of which are unavoidable.

First, the corn borer has ravaged 22,000 acres of our corn land. Second, the hog cholera epidemic of 1928 exterminated some of our finest grades and best hogs. Third, the supplementation of tobacco for corn has brought about chaotic conditions, and the plight of the tobacco grower is so serious that the farmers are greatly discouraged and hundreds of assignments have been made. Fourth, the importation of surplus American farm produce at distress prices, at distress times, has made the growing of early vegetables an unprofitable occupation. Fifth, there was the failure of the government to take cognizance of these conditions and its indifference to requests and demands, its failure to offer assistance when government action was necessary and could have ameliorated conditions. Last, and most important of all, and for which the government will in due time be called upon to answer, conditions are so grave that life-long Liberals in western Ontario are forsaking the party. There is division in the ranks of the Liberal party and strong opposition even to a seasonal tariff on vegetables, to which I shall make more extended reference later.

Before proceeding further with my remarks, I should like to compliment the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Letellier de St. Just), who I am sorry is not in his seat at the moment, on contributing to this debate on March 14th last what to my mind was the finest presentation that has hitherto been made. There was more meat and substance and more actual thought in the preparation of that speech than in forty speeches such as were delivered by the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Sanderson). I know something of the pains the hon. member for Compton took in