

Supply—Agriculture

will have to buy that improved kind of machine if they are going to keep up to date.

Mr. Pouliot: My hon. friend knows there are more tractors on farms throughout the country now than ever before.

An hon. Member: There should be.

Mr. Blackmore: These are fine, searching questions the hon. member for Temiscouata is asking. His eye is on reality. Let us agricultural people face realities with him.

Mr. Pouliot: I do not mean tractors for the roads; I mean tractors for the farms.

Mr. Blackmore: I understand fully. The big question is whether all the farms have tractors which should have tractors.

Mr. Pouliot: No. They buy tractors jointly. Three or four farmers join together to buy a tractor, and it is the same as if there were four tractors.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Trinity-Conception raises a point of order.

Mr. Stick: Mr. Chairman, I think this committee is listening to a private discussion tonight. I believe the members should address the Chair so we can all understand what is going on.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Temiscouata asked and obtained from the hon. member for Lethbridge permission to ask a question, and I do not think the interchange that followed was in any way out of order or out of keeping with the practice of the house.

Mr. Pouliot: I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always have my big stick.

Mr. Blackmore: As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, in my judgment you are absolutely correct in your ruling. If we can all just talk this over together, all being interested in Canada as we all are, and feel free to ask questions and answer them, we will make much progress. The kind of question the hon. member has asked is just the kind of question that I welcome and shall be glad to answer. Many new tractors would be bought this year if the farmers only had the wherewithal to buy the tractors, and many parts would be bought if they only had the wherewithal to buy the parts. Tractors do not last overlong with the heavy work they are called upon to do. I hardly think the difficulty lies where the hon. member suggests it might lie. It lies in the fact that the people in the three prairie provinces, where a large part

of the machinery is sold, simply have not the wherewithal to buy the machinery they wish to buy.

I can give an illustration of the very rapid changes in machinery, something most hon. members have not had an opportunity to see. The change in the machinery used in the beet sugar industry, which is common in my constituency, would astonish hon. members. New kinds of machinery are coming in which in one process can take the beets out of the ground, elevate them, clean them and put them into a container, which container can be run off to the factory. These machines are changed and improved so rapidly that people will buy new machines just as quickly as they have the money with which to buy them. So I hardly think the difficulty lies in the fact that there is enough machinery on Canadian farms.

Mr. Pouliot: Would my hon. friend permit me?

Mr. Blackmore: Yes.

Mr. Pouliot: Does he object to four or five farmers joining together to buy a tractor for their use?

Mr. Blackmore: In the area that my hon. friend represents, where the farms are relatively small, that is the kind of thing one would expect.

Mr. Pouliot: Two hundred acres.

Mr. Blackmore: When one gets out to the west, in Saskatchewan or Alberta, one finds farms of three or four sections run by one man. Of course in some cases three or four tractors are needed for one farm. But it all depends on the area we are studying. I would imagine the farms in the constituency of my hon. friend from Queens are not very large, but in the case of smaller farms there are small tractors people can buy if they have the money with which to buy them. Does that answer your question? An hon. member said something. If he will speak up so I can hear what he has to say, I shall be glad.

Mr. Pouliot: They are not serious. We are serious.

Mr. Blackmore: If they are not serious, it is high time they were, because the welfare of all Canada is at stake right in this discussion. This is not a joke at all. It is something that Canada is right up against right now. When a man from Toronto engaged in the machine manufacturing industry tells us he