

Rural Development

which has been almost totally settled, there are places—in my constituency, and in other counties to a larger extent—where in a school district that in living memory had perhaps 30 students going to a one-roomed school, today has not a single resident. The whole area has been permitted to grow up in scrub. This is a very discouraging situation, and a very unfortunate one. I believe we are nearing the point when we shall require all the usable agricultural land of this country to help supply the food needs of North America, not to mention the food needs of the underdeveloped and overcrowded parts of the world.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this, as well as the ARDA program, is a new approach to the realization of the fact that previous programs have not met the problem of rural blighted areas.

I commend this legislation. I think it would be folly to expect it to be a cure-all for all ills, but I think it is a step in the right direction. I think one of the most important things that has to be done is to revive the self-confidence of the people who want to live in the country by agricultural or other rural pursuits. I believe this can best be done by setting up pilot operations. For instance, if an area has become blighted, I think it would be well, as an administrative project, to buy up the required amount of land to create an economic farm unit, and to put a young, well educated farmer on that farm, giving him some sort of incentive under a buy-back program to buy the farm so that he could demonstrate not only that certain things can be done, but that they can be done economically, thereby proving to farmers who want to carry on a modernized farming operation but who hesitate to do so because they have to borrow most of the money, that the operation can be made to pay off.

That is a responsibility that we have if we believe in what we are trying to do. It behooves us to prove the point that farms can be economic. Otherwise the confidence of rural people will be further destroyed, and they will hesitate to take advantage of programs which may be envisaged by those who are in government and who are conscientiously trying to do a good job, but who, unlike the farmer, have not any of their personal livelihood at stake, and who are living on a guaranteed salary.

After all, in this day and age it takes a large investment of something like \$40,000 or

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

\$50,000 to operate the average economic farm, and even that is a fairly small operation. It has to be demonstrated that it is good business, nevertheless, to borrow most of this money. It has to be demonstrated that if a farming operation is carried out with the most modern methods, with industry and good intelligence, a livelihood—and not just a poor livelihood, but a reasonable livelihood—can be earned for a man and his family, so that they can look forward to the future with the expectation of being able to educate their children, at least through high school, so that they can have some of the amenities of life, and so that they can live in a reasonable house with a reasonable standard of living somewhat comparable to that of the lower income brackets in the average city.

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): I wonder if I might announce the business of the house now for tomorrow and Thursday. We should like to start tomorrow with item No. 5 on today's order paper, the continuation of debate on Bill C-151. Then we should like to take item No. 12, second reading of the bill to amend the Northwest Territories Act, then, second reading of the bill to amend the Yukon Act. Then we would take the Forestry estimates, the Labour estimates, the Post Office estimates and the Industry estimates.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

AGRICULTURE—REQUEST FOR PROTECTION ON GRADE STANDARDS

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, on May 4 I addressed the following question to the Minister of Agriculture:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister mind, for the information of members of this house, having a pamphlet issued by his department informing consumers what is being done by the