

equal to that which would be paid to a producer in the province where it was sold. We had the assistance of counsel, pretty well-known lawyers. Every other province did the same thing. It would have been much better if at that time the federal parliament had passed enabling legislation, like the bill before us, to help the provinces do openly what they were doing by a "back-door" procedure. The people of this country prefer to have their public business conducted in a straightforward fashion rather than by devious methods. That is why I am in favour of this bill.

I have heard some people refer to the farmers of this country as a pressure group. Well, I would like anybody in this house to indicate to me any class of the population which, in proportion to what it represents in the economic and social life of the country, has exerted less political pressure than the farmers, and in particular the dairy farmers. I say to honourable members that our future depends on the dairy farmers of this country. Half a million people are directly engaged in the basic industry of dairy farming. It is a basic industry not only because it furnishes nourishment to the population, but because it provides to those engaged in it a way of life. Further, the best classes of our people come from the farms. This is so, not because dairy and other farmers are naturally better people than citizens in other occupations, but because life on the farm brings people into direct contact with elemental realities and gives them a little time to think seriously about such things as some of the new theories that are being circulated everywhere. A sound farming class is, I say, the best protection against what we all fear above everything else.

The farmer must be protected, and if we do not protect him now Canada will later on find itself in the unenviable position at present occupied by some other countries—one of which, England, is well known to most members here. About one hundred years ago England had to face the problem we are facing now. Industry was developing very rapidly, and agriculture was relatively so unimportant to her economic life that she forgot to take care of it. Today England has to do for the protection of agriculture twenty times what Canada is doing. I mention this because I would not like to be a party to tearing down something that our sons will find it necessary to rebuild. The example of England should cause every member of this house to reflect on the present situation in Canada.

Dairy farmers are operating now with a very narrow margin of profit. In fact, I contend that no farmer who produces milk

with the help of his sons and pays them the wage to which they are entitled can make a profit. The main reasons why some farmers are able to put aside a little money are: First, that they do not spend much; and secondly, that they do not pay a proper wage to their sons who work on the farm. That policy is not sound for the farmers, nor is it sound for the country at large. I believe that if we continue a little longer our neglect of the farmers of this country they will be leaving the farms for the cities in even larger numbers than they are doing now, and many of them, instead of being an asset to the country's economic life, will, by overcrowding our urban centres, be in danger of becoming a burden upon the country. I think the farmers need the protection which this bill will give them.

It has been said by those who advocate the use of margarine that that substitute for butter is considered by doctors to be not poisonous—but we have not been given the names of the doctors who came to even that conclusion. Of course, no opponent of margarine ever contended that it was poisonous. What we say is that it is not as nutritious as butter, that it will not help to build up a generation so physically strong as those generations that have made this country what it is today. I do not think this bill gives any more protection than dairy farmers need to enable them to survive economically.

Parliament has passed laws to protect poultry producers, laws to protect producers of fruit and vegetables, and laws to classify fruits and vegetables that are shipped from one province to another. Those laws have proved the best incentive to farmers to improve their produce. For instance, farmers in Quebec complained against the competition they had to face from potatoes that are shipped in by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia producers. The reason for the keen competition is that, as the potatoes are shipped in from an outside province they have to be classified and graded according to federal regulations. Again, a Quebec farmer cannot sell a bushel of apples in Ontario unless they also are classified according to federal regulations. When farmers from the Maritime provinces were capturing the Montreal market with their classified produce, Quebec farmers decided that the only way to meet the competition was by classifying what they themselves produced and brought to the market. I could go on and give many more instances showing that compulsory grading leads to improvement in the produce offered for sale.

All that is being asked in this bill is that the federal parliament authorize the government to pass regulations requiring that dairy products passing from one province to