

pretty fair testimonial. I can think of no finer diploma given to any body of people, no greater licence to go out and do business among my farmers who feed a steer a thousand days at six cents a day, pay the freight to Montreal and give those steers to these Montreal scalawags.

I shall not trust myself further. If the officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce are not going to take any blame in this matter and are going to lay the blame on my farmers that they are a bunch of dumbbells, and if the officials have been criminally negligent, then it is my duty as the representative of my farmers to say a word on their behalf. We thank the Minister of Trade and Commerce for his courtesy all through, and I do not think it would hurt him very much to-night to say that although the farmers perhaps did not use good business judgment, it is the duty of the strong to protect the weak, but inasmuch as we put stalls in boats that were not seaworthy—and if there is any doubt about that, with the knowledge I have I say: Give us an independent tribunal before whom we can place the facts—we are willing to assume the responsibility of proving our case. My attitude in this matter has been entirely changed within the last few days, when I learned of a brief that the officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce had prepared in which they stated they took no blame in the matter, I claim that they are criminally negligent and I shall assume full responsibility in any capacity this house asks me, to prove my statement that this man McDonnell who was a bankrupt, this man Richardson who was a bankrupt and this man Morgan whose name is not sweet-scented at all in the city of Montreal, were granted a licence when they should not have been. We are all human; we all make mistakes and the officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce, when their minister was very busy with other things—and his name will go down in history for his present activity—when he could not oversee everything, must have been responsible. But do not let us wrap that cloak about us and say: We cannot make a mistake. I never yet knew a government that did not make an occasional mistake. Inasmuch as mistakes have perhaps been made on both sides of this question; inasmuch as there are no newspaper reporters here and we are just gathered in this chamber in the closing days of the session I would suggest that he who gives quickly gives twice and I would say this: Halve the responsibility. Let my farmers stay on the land of their fathers and grand-

fathers and at least let the department admit that they endorsed unworthy men and fitted up unseaworthy ships and that they will halve this with my farmers.

Then, of course, the bugaboo is: There is no channel through which this can legitimately flow. That is always the way with the old Ontario farmer; there is no room in the inn. If there is an explosion at Halifax or a Quebec bridge disaster or grasshoppers out west, or if the Rocky mountains started to erupt to-night and lava flowed down on the minister's side of the mountains, we would find a way; but the staid old Ontario farmer who toils from daylight until dark can be robbed by financial thugs in the city of Montreal, aided by a diploma granted by the Department of Trade and Commerce, and yet they say: There is nothing we can do for them.

Perhaps I have spoken a little heatedly in this matter, but my colleague the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. Golding) while there was yet time wrote a letter and the officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce should then have taken cognizance of and looked into the matter. What are these high salaried men in England connected with the departments of Trade and Commerce and Agriculture for if it is not to be a lamp unto the path of our farmers? Why have them at all? You say: There is a precedent. I say: No, because in the future this situation cannot obtain. Through our marketing act such men will be bonded and there can be no further precedent. The department listened to me and others and fitted up boats. But they did not do my farmers any favour when they fitted up a couple of tubs and put them in charge of a crew headed by Morgan of Montreal. I submit this and stand by it, although there has been objection taken, that if this so called Richelieu Corporation, which did not put up a dollar, but just exchanged cheques, if this defunct company had never met with officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce the cattle would never have been stolen, because the farmers never would have dealt with men who could not show some kind of testimonial. I must express appreciation to the department for what they have done in opening that channel; under the British Empire trade agreement we are going to have a channel there for years to come, and having made a little slip in this case let us admit it and let us go fifty-fifty. On behalf of my farmers who are being driven into bankruptcy through criminal negligence of the officials of the Department of Trade and