

time Provinces appear to be about as prosperous as any section of Canada. In fact each of those provinces has been able to balance its budget. Undoubtedly in this respect they are better off than the Prairie Provinces, for unfortunately we in the West cannot balance our budgets. We have to depend on our good friends in Eastern Canada to help our struggling farmers. We are neither ashamed to ask nor ashamed to receive that support, because, as honourable members are aware, Quebec, Ontario and the Maritime Provinces are just as much interested in the success of the farmers of the Prairies as we are.

Being a Western man, I feel that this Bill vitally affects the people of the Prairie Provinces. And certainly anything that might tend to add to their burdens should be neither encouraged nor endorsed by this Chamber. For these reasons, and others which I might advance if time permitted, I shall vote against the Bill.

Hon. HENRY A. MULLINS: Honourable members, as a Westerner who has lived in the West for a number of years and has been trying to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, I have some knowledge of agricultural conditions in the Prairie Provinces. I have lived in the homes of the pioneers of the West. I have seen that country develop.

In the early days the great difficulty in the West was lack of transportation, and when we went out there you in the East tried to discourage us. You said there would be so little traffic that the Canadian Pacific would not earn sufficient revenue to pay for axle grease. I have before me a statement made in those days that cattle would be frozen to death in numbers that would astonish settlers, and that the pioneers there were often maimed for life by frost-bite. I have lived there for fifty years and have never yet been frost-bitten. We have a wonderful country in the three Prairie Provinces, with 250,000 square miles of fertile land.

You may ask me what is the matter with that country. I have made a careful study of the whole situation, and I say without hesitation the primary trouble is freight rates. My right honourable leader in this House (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) knows that as well as I do. I have under my hand a statement he made in 1925, and with his permission I shall read it. At that time he was leader of his party in the other House, and its membership was not such a conglomeration as it is to-day. There is now a little of everything over there. Let me give the

Hon. Mr. GILLIS.

Social Crediters their due. They raised the ante, as the old Western saying was, on the Progressives. They may have a twisted mentality, but they raised the ante so high on those Progressives that at the last election they left every one of them at home. The Social Credit party has in its ranks school teachers, professors and ministers—men who never had to get out and earn a dollar off the land, and never had the experience of the pioneers.

One of the finest pioneers that Canada can boast of is the habitant of Quebec. I rubbed shoulders with him when I used to ship train-loads of cattle from the West to Montreal and Quebec. Occasionally when the train broke down I had to buy hay from him to take care of my cattle. I say there is no finer man than the habitant of Quebec. And yet some professor in the States last week said he would rather have an Alabama nigger than the habitant of Quebec. I ask honourable members to imagine a statement of that kind from a man who is said to be a professor. I have been in the open more or less all my life. I have never had the privilege of a university or college education. My life has been forged on the anvil of hard knocks. I am astonished that a man of culture and experience could make such a statement concerning the habitant of Quebec. When the professor used the word "nigger," it seemed to me he showed the kind of man he was. Had he said "negro" or "coloured man," he would have displayed somewhat better taste.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: Is the honourable gentleman sure that that man is not part negro?

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: The acoustics of this Chamber is not very good, and I do not hear my honourable friend distinctly. I admire our pioneer, the habitant, and that insult was unjustified. I resent such unwarranted disparagement of the pioneer of Quebec, as I would of the pioneer of the West. He is struggling very hard to pull through.

In my opinion this Bill will strangle and rob the poor agriculturist of Western Canada. All down through the years we have been trying to get away from high freight rates. I had intended to read the speech my right honourable leader made in 1925, for fear he had forgotten it and might endorse the Bill. We were on the platform together when he expressed the opinion which I held then and still hold. I shall now quote his remarks lest I forget to do so as I denounce this obnoxious measure. My right honourable leader, who was then Prime Minister, dealt with a pamphlet which, he said, had been circulated