

never again will any Government allow those sections of land to be homesteaded.

In answer to a further objection I may say that this Bill will not keep men on the land very long, because all they can get is a couple of dollars per acre on half of their tilled land. If a man is seeding in the spring and sowing three-quarters to a bushel of wheat to the acre and doing the work necessary to put the land in good condition, he is not getting very much out of it in the form of a bonus of \$2. At best, it will help him along in the meantime. Those who will be taxed will have been fortunate enough to have a good crop. John Stuart Mill laid down what has always been regarded as a sound principle of taxation, that taxes should be levied on people according to their ability to pay. I do not think there will be any objection on the part of those who are best able to pay, to contributing to the proposed fund. The main purpose of this measure is to help the unfortunate fellows over the hill. And we must help them. If we do not do it in this way, we shall have to give them seed grain year after year. By this method they can preserve their self-respect. They know what they will get, and, if their land will not sustain them, whatever Government happen to be in power will continue to move them off, as both this and the previous Government have been doing, on to land that is more likely to have sufficient rainfall.

I am sorry to have to agree with my honourable friend from Winnipeg South-Centre when he says the reports are that so far this year is not giving very great promise of good crops. The outlook is fairly bleak. That emphasizes the necessity of this Bill, which constitutes an earnest effort to put the matter on a proper kind of foundation.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: In answer to the suggestion that there may be discrimination, will my honourable friend tell us how this Bill will operate in the case of farmers who grow products other than grain?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The man who does not market any grain at an elevator contributes nothing under this Bill.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: He does not get anything?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Oh, yes, if he is growing grain and has a crop failure; and you cannot raise live stock without growing grain.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: No, no. Take the farmer in the East who grows potatoes. What help does he get from the Government?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Bless my heart! What would he do with potatoes out there?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Just a second. The West is not the only part of Canada that must be looked after by the Government. Do you think this Bill is quite fair to the whole community when under it certain farmers are selected and given aid to the tune of some \$50,000,000 a year, but no attention is paid to farmers in other parts of the country who may be just as badly off?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: No. This Bill applies only to the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and the Peace River spring wheat districts of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I know. But has my honourable friend no difficulty in defending this proposed legislation when other provinces are not looked after at all?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The other provinces have not had these calamities. We are trying to begin the collection of money from the Western farmers who have a crop. The money will not be collected outside of the three Western Provinces.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: You collect \$2,000,000. Where do you get the \$50,000,000 you pay out?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: We shall not pay \$50,000,000. Such a suggestion is quite absurd.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: At what sum do you estimate the annual cost?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: That is pretty difficult to calculate off-hand, but it will not be \$50,000,000 this year, when we are paying 80 cents for wheat, which practically amounts to a bonus of 12 cents a bushel.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I suggest that my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) adjourn his questioning to the Banking and Commerce Committee, which will meet on this Bill to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE SENATE.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Before we adjourn I should like to ask the leader of the House if we are going to sit on Saturday.