

*Soldier Settlement Act*

more would be leaving if they could get away. The blighting influence of this government has been noticed not only during the last year but almost since the time they came into office, and that influence has been encouraged by my hon. friends to my left who have stated, notwithstanding the remarks of the leader of the Progressive party (Mr. Forke), that they understand the conditions of the returned soldiers better than anyone else. I say they have not shown the interest in the returned soldiers which they should have shown.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I would like to ask the hon. member if this distress did not commence before this government came into office?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I am referring to the conditions which have developed since this government assumed office.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Did not this distress commence before this government came into office?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Is it the distress in the government ranks which my hon. friend speaks of?

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): The distress due to the deflation of land values; did it not commence before this government came into office?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): It is certainly much more pronounced at present than it has been at any time since the government took office.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I would like the hon. gentleman to answer the question. Will he not admit that this distress commenced before the present government came into office?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I do not understand that I am under orders from the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I simply asked the hon. member if he would be courteous enough to answer my question. I am not trying to give out any orders.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I may say to my hon. friend that it has been so noticeable since the government took office, and at present the distress is so apparent that all these remedial measures are being suggested—old age pensions, relief for the men who have gone on the land. This is the best evidence I can advance to show that the distress is more acute to-day than it ever was before.

[Mr. D. Sutherland.]

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): So the hon. gentleman refuses to answer my question, does he?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Just along that line, Mr. Chairman, take the case of a returned soldier out in my hon. friend's constituency. Suppose he is carrying on a farm in a small way; his revenue is largely derived from dairying, or possibly from poultry raising. What does he find to-day, as a result of the operation of a measure put into effect by hon. gentlemen opposite?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Well, what does he find?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Yes, what does he find? He does not find what the farmer in the United States finds.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Will my hon. friend deny that butter and eggs are higher in Canada at the moment than they are in the United States? That is the final answer.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): My hon. friend knows as well as anyone—

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Certainly I know.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): — that in the southern states, where the warm weather comes in much earlier than it does in Canada, conditions are much more favourable for production than in Canada during the winter. This was the argument advanced by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend knows perfectly well that in Canada to-day the price of butter and eggs is higher than it is in the United States. That is the point.

Mr. SPENCE (Parkdale): And the hon. member ought to know the reason.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, I know the reason.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): The predictions of the government, and particularly of the Minister of Finance, that they were going to encourage by the Australian treaty a continuous supply of dairy products, meats and such things from the southern hemisphere during the winter months, induced the people of this country to export their stock of supplies early at low prices. They did not keep their stock for the higher prices, as had been customary in the past.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.