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AGRICULTURAL

(Continued from page 11)

and by produce merchants that we have no Canadian tier sufficiently uniform as to grade to permit its being labelled and shipped to the old country as Canadian butter. The former Minister of Agriculture, recommended the other day that some of the creameries in Quebec should be merged into larger creameries in an endeavour to develop a more uniform grade of butter. Surely, this is not the time to do that. While listening to the hon. gentleman's remarks, I could not help but think that if he had done one-tenth as much during the nine years he was in office as he said he had hoped to do or intended to do if he were returned to office, we would not be having insistent demands from hon. gentlemen on the other side for a statement of agri-

THE BACON MARKET

When this government came into power, realizing the then low price of coarse grains and rough feed, we felt that we would soon be in the export market with our bacon. Upon making investigation, one point was evident to hon. gentlemen on both sides of the government—namely the great scarcity of select bacon, the only type that has any opportunity to compete in the old country with the Danish product. In Saskatchewan alone I found that the number of select bacon hogs was only 3.6 per cent; that is, only 3.6 per cent of the pigs slaughtered in Saskatchewan would have any opportunity to go on the world market. That is the condition in which I found the bacon industry for purposes of export. I knew there had to be an emergency measure, and it was an emergency measure when I tried to work out a way that would make it easier for the farmers to get into the production of a select bacon type of pigs. That is why I formulated the "brood sow" policy that some hon. gentlemen opposite have been making a good deal of fun of. In that way we made it easier for the farmers to get into the production of the select bacon type of pigs. Further, this idea was that litters of the select bacon type of brood sows would be sired by boars of the select bacon type, and the information brought to me is that one could not realize how much effect this would be likely to have on the type of pigs obtained from these litters for breeding purposes.

CATTLE

The next point with which I wish to deal is cattle. I think, as perhaps one of the soundest principles of or feeding, we should at all times aim to get into our live stock that type of blood that will make the best of the feed that we give them, whether dairy cattle or beef cattle. It was for that reason I tried to catch up with the policies that had been neglected so much, by introducing the policy that was scoffed at this afternoon, the policy known as the "bull loaning" policy, by which we hope to help the farmers of Canada, especially at this time by loaning them bulls under supervision. This was only doing fairly and honestly as the people of Canada would really wish, because I believe ninety-nine per cent of our people are really intensely interested in this question of the success of agriculture and desire from the bottom of their hearts that agriculture should prosper.

In connection with these policies, people both on this side and on the other have told me not to take these debates too seriously; that hon. gentlemen on the other side who moved and supported this motion were not so much concerned with policies of agriculture; that it was all a political game. I can scarcely believe that. I have sat here day after day watching the facts of hon. gentlemen opposite, farmers from the west, and I cannot help feeling they are very sincere as regards their interest in helping agriculture. I am willing at this point to put it to hon. members: I will ask the hon. gentleman who moved the amendment if he cannot show to the house that he is interested in agriculture and describe the two brood sow policies of the late government when they went out of office. I realize that he will hesitate to interrupt me in my speech. No doubt the hon. gentleman knows those policies, but if he does not, then I would be left to believe that the suggestion that the talk was

political rather than agricultural is true. We have other so-called policies and I realize that each of them is not of very great importance in itself for immediate relief. The hon. member for Willow Bunch (Mr. Donnelly) said this afternoon that these things were all right in their way, and I appreciate the kindly reference to them. However, I ask, would they not have been put into force five years ago, so that now we would be in the position in which we should be?

THE WESTERN PROBLEM

It has been said that this government has done nothing for agriculture. Laughing reference has been made to the speeches that I delivered in Toronto and Montreal in connection with the banks not lending money, and especially to the last part of my speech. I did not make those speeches in western Canada to the farmers. I thought the place to make them, the place where the farmers of western Canada would wish me to make them, would be in Toronto and Montreal, and that is where I made them. At the end of my speech in Montreal I said that if credit were not given to the farmers through the banks, some steps would have to be taken to give them credit. The reference was made that we have heard no more of that. In less than ten days from that time, realizing that credit would not be given, I made arrangements to meet the western ministers of agriculture at Winnipeg just for the purpose of doing what I said would have to be done. I met with them and we discussed the problems of the west, seed grain relief, relief to help the farmers to put in grain, and other relief. These ministers agreed it would be better in the interests of carrying out this plan if our part in the contract were not made public, but I can say this, that never before was more than a government which realized the situation of the western farmer due to circumstances over which he had no control, and our offer was commensurate with our appreciation of the situation. Moreover, when it is known, I am sure hon. gentlemen opposite will blush for having discussed this question in the way they have done, although perhaps this is through no fault of their own as they did not know the offer.

In conclusion, because I see I have only five minutes more, no one in the house realizes better than I do that these policies which I have enunciated, are policies that will not result in benefits until some time in the future. No one realizes better than I do that there is carried by the western farmer a load that requires some form of immediate relief, a load that these policies will not immediately alleviate. But that load of mortgages and debts was not created since last August. That is the load that worries me, when I look forward to the future to see these agricultural communities in the west happy and prosperous again, as I would see them.

Another Handicap

There is another handicap for which we take no responsibility. In the early days when western Canada was first settled, people came from many countries, including many from the United States, with whole carloads of equipment and were directed to areas that people knew or should have known did not give those farmers a chance of making a living there. Why was that done? They were warned about it. Among many others, that veteran rancher Joe Wylie, from Maple Creek, told them they were breaking up over night a sod that took a thousand years to make. That is one of the loads we are carrying in western Canada today.

Another load is that of weeds. In this connection I hesitate to make this statement, but I think when we are discussing in this house things on their merits, we are not supposed to mince words and therefore I shall speak plainly. However, before I discuss weeds, it has been advocated that a pork packing plant be established in the west. Few hon. members in the house or in the Dominion have given more thought to that question than I have since last October. I have been in consultation with people who, I thought, might operate it. I have done something

to bring representatives of wholesale co-operative houses from the old country to look into the proposition, because I felt nothing like that could be a success unless we had some one here from the old land who knew the taste of the English people in regard to bacon, to manage the plant, etc. We could use their sales machinery. I believed that in this way thousands of dollars would be saved. I have made a study of private plants, of public plants; the whole thing has been gone into very thoroughly. I doubt whether the quantity of bacon this year will be anything like what people some time ago expected it would be but if hon. gentlemen opposite were anxious for a packing plant, they had plenty of opportunity to build one. Take the Moose Jaw registered seed grain plant at Moose Jaw. There was enough money spent on that to build four seed cleaning plants and then have enough left over to build a packing plant. According to the speech delivered by the provincial treasurer in Saskatchewan the other day, the co-operative creameries that were built there lost the province one million dollars. That was enough to build at least four packing plants in Saskatchewan. If the estimate for the railway hotel in Saskatoon had been cut in two, enough would have been saved to build a packing plant in every province in the Dominion.

Cites Predecessor's Record

One word more and I shall have finished. I think the biggest load that agriculture in Canada, especially in Saskatchewan, has to carry, is known to the majority of farmers in this Dominion. When the former Minister of Agriculture was made Minister of Agriculture in the government in 1905, he had before him a clean, fertile, virgin field in that province, and he had coming into that field people who took second place to none. And what has been the result? It is an old saying that there is a record written that he who runs may read; but written along trails leading out of Regina there is a record which those who drive in automobiles travelling sixty miles an hour can read, a record written during the term of office of the former Minister of Agriculture in sow thistle, stink-weed and other weeds of various kinds.

But that is not all. He left the provincial field in 1918 and came into federal politics as Minister of Agriculture in 1921. His work was not yet completed. There was a patch in Saskatchewan that was still not weedy enough, that fertile valley which takes second place to none, that valley which is in the constituency I have the great honour to represent, the Carrot river valley in northern Saskatchewan. It was comparatively clear and clean of weeds of any kind. What happened? The former Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart)—I take it that he acted in conjunction with the former Minister of Agriculture—decided that there was a great slough there which should be drained, and they drained it at a cost in the neighborhood of \$186,000—which would have helped considerably in building a packing plant.

An hon. MEMBER: It was the Tories who did that.
HON. MR. WEIR: It was in 1921-1922. The result of it all was this, that some three or four years ago, after they had had people out there making experiments to find out the best thing to grow on that drained land, they rented it out to people who did not utilize the knowledge of the experts, and the result is that today we find just across the fence five hundred acres of sow thistle polluting all that fertile valley. The hon. member said the other day that if I had been in Saskatoon when the United Farmers met there, my life would not have been safe. The hon. gentleman's life would not be very safe towards August and September in our part of the country, when I myself for one—and other farmers—have had to hire four men for about two weeks to pick out the sow thistle that came from that area.

In conclusion, may I say that there it stands and will stand as a menace to the north, to spread sow thistle and noxious weeds of various kinds. It stands as a memorial to the lack of agricultural intelligence of two former ministers of the crown. It

stands as a record indisputable and undeniable because written by their own hands.

THE PROMISE OF SPRING

Oh, though my little wood so far and lonely,
The high soft wind blows free,
And small new buds of grass are
bursting; only
I am not there to see.

Across the moorland towards the
little hollow,
Last year my steps were set:
Yonder today there skims the year's
first swallow,
And turf and heath are wet.

Green-hearted moss and blades of
grass are springing,
And gorse breaks into gold;
While comes anon the sweet, new
sound of singing,
Just as in springs of old.

Oh, in my little wood, the elms are
flushing,
To rose-pink faint and sweet,
And catkins tremble o'er the brooklet
rushing,
And laughing at their feet.

Last year, half hid in dew-drenched
leaves and mosses,
I found the first primrose;
Today another foot the moorland
crosses,
And to the hollow goes.
—Elizabeth Smith, (A Northumbrian
poetess, who died at the early
age of eighteen.)

REBUILDS CATHEDRAL

SOISSONS, May 20. (U. P.)—Soissons has just celebrated the rebuilding of its great cathedral partially destroyed by German guns during the World War. Cardinal Binet, former Bishop of Soissons, presided over the mass of those rejoicing in the

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restoration of the famous walls and spire of the old cathedral. The bishops of Soissons, Amiens, Arras, Chalons and Rheims, in their gorgeous robes assisted in the celebration. Government functionaries attending included Paul Leon, director of fine arts. In memory of the war victims a De Profundis was chanted.

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By George McManis