

literally hundreds of thousands of people in all areas of Canada who are living in poverty, and I think it a crying shame that in a nation such as Canada we have done little or nothing to lift these masses of people out of that level.

I am not so foolish as to think that we can increase the standard of living of all these people; but I think a large percentage of them could be helped. There are in the Speech from the Throne three paragraphs which forecast programs the Government hopes to implement and which I believe would go a long way in solving some of the problems of poverty in Canada.

As I said a moment ago, I do not think poverty is confined to any given area. If we open our eyes wide enough we can find it scattered throughout the rural areas and the urban centres, regardless of whether you are in western, central or eastern Canada.

Of course we in Saskatchewan are not immune. That province has its share of poverty, and I am a little amazed at some of the articles I read in eastern newspapers. Reading them one is led to believe that the farmers in western Canada have money sticking out of their ears. Some of them have, but some have not.

In Saskatchewan today we have about 85,000 farmers, and I am happy that a good percentage of them are doing quite well. But honourable senators, do you know that out of those 85,000 farmers there are 35,000 who have a gross annual income of \$2,000 or less—not a net, but a gross income of \$2,000 a year or less. Of course, this condition is not confined to my home province. I know that to a degree it exists in my neighbouring provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. Apparently it also exists in Ontario. In the *Globe and Mail* of last Friday, January 14, there appeared an article headed: "Wanted: a plan for Ontario's 50,000 failing farms." The article does not point out what the income of these people is, but does indicate that there are 50,000 farmers in the Province of Ontario who are in trouble because of poverty conditions.

Honourable senators, I want to repeat that I believe some of the proposals in the Speech from the Throne, when implemented, will go a long way to assist in solving this problem. Many people seem to think this is a new problem, that we have to have brand-new policies to cope with it. I do not think we do. I often reflect upon what happened in this nation at the end of the Second World War, when we had many thousands of young men and young women returning to civilian life

after having served in the armed forces, and I wonder what would have happened if these people had been just released into the private sector of our country without any provision being made for their education, training or re-establishment. I suggest that chaos would have been created in this nation, and that today we would still be suffering as a result of it. But rather than having these people return to civilian life without adequate training and adequate finances, certain programs—and all honourable senators are aware of them—were implemented. Consequently, the service personnel were absorbed into the civilian population without causing as much as a ripple.

I believe that part of the reason for the general prosperity in Canada today is that these policies were implemented. I am thinking of the many, many men and women who were retrained upon leaving the services and who have made and are making great contributions to the conditions under which we live today. Surely, when we talk about retraining many of our rural people and, of course some urban people as well, for a new place in the society in which we live, we can see a similarity between these policies and those implemented after the war.

Honourable senators, I mentioned a moment ago that some farmers in Saskatchewan were doing very well, but I also said that there were others whose incomes left much to be desired. It was only a few days ago that a report, based on a study of 424 Saskatchewan farms that are under a farm management group, came to my attention. The figures published in this study are interesting, because the average net annual income of the 424 farms in this group is \$6,936. But the average net annual income of all the Saskatchewan farms is \$4,300. I use this comparison to indicate to you that the survey was taken of farms that are above average in both size and managerial ability, and also in capital investment. However, the average labour income—that is, the return that the farmer receives for his labour—of the 424 farms in the survey is \$3,556 per year. I arrive at the labour income by subtracting the investment capital from the net income.

If you take the average return for 38 per cent of the 424 farms in the review you find that it is \$4,000 a year or better, but in the Province of Saskatchewan, according to this survey which was conducted by the provincial Department of Agriculture, 33 per cent of the farms have a labour income of \$1,000 or less per year. This is not general prosperity;