

or on his farm, so as to enable him to carry on. Now, honourable senators, that is not as dangerous as it sounds. No one can sell any grain in Manitoba without bringing in a government certificate showing how much grain he has. Of course, farmers might sell it among themselves, but then that would show up on the certificate. So there would be little possibility of a farmer defrauding anybody if the proposed advance of 75 per cent were made.

Another thing that should be done today is to take the damp grain of the 1954 crop and dispose of it to Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime provinces and British Columbia at the best price obtainable, for feed to cattle, hogs and poultry, in order to make use of it in this country. It is far better that farmers in those provinces should have it than it be left to rot on the prairies or sold to Poland or some other satellite of Russia for an amount that we may or may not be paid. I remember that when we were selling Canadian ships to China I objected strenuously in this house to that transaction. However, the ships were sold, and now we are paying for them and the Chinese have the boats. We certainly lost out on that deal. And here is the same thing again. This grain cannot be sold for milling purposes, so it should be sold for feed.

Just think, honourable senators, of going to the bank and borrowing money at 5½ per cent interest on the value of your own grain, so that you can spend that money to pay for what the grain itself should have paid for. You cannot sell the grain because of the government monopoly; it just cannot be got onto the market.

That, honourable senators, is the situation in a few words.

I say that that question and the question of the financial condition of municipalities and school districts of Canada are problems of paramount importance to the people of our country. Schools are needed not only in the rural districts, but perhaps even more urgently in the cities. We senators have to help to solve these problems. We have no political axe to grind; therefore it does not make any difference to us whether a Conservative, a Liberal, a CCF, a Social Credit or a what-have-you government is in power. We shall be senators as long as we live—which may be a short or long time—and therefore we personally do not have anything to fear from the standpoint of political consequences. All that we need to do is to bring forward what is best for Canada.

Honourable senators will pardon me if I make a personal reference here. I came to

Winnipeg as a boy and went to school. I won't tell you how much money I had in my pocket, but it was not very much. Dad and mother were at home and I knew mother would scrape up the last bit of butter and sell it to get a 50-cent or 25-cent piece to send me occasionally until I got through university and became a lawyer. She treated my brothers and sisters similarly; all farmers do that kind of thing for their children. Honourable senators, I tell you that the farming community is the backbone of this country, and the minute we forget that fundamental fact we are lost. It is all right to work the mines at Flin Flon, to dig the iron ore mines in Quebec and Ontario, to work the nickel mines in Ontario, but the day will come, as it did in the United States, when our ore will run out, and then what will we have to sell?

The farmers must be enabled to make a living. They are entitled to their share of the prosperity of this country. I do not care whether you are a labourer or a capitalist, you are entitled to your share. But to my mind the farmer is No. 1, and if we do not consider him to be No. 1 the rest of us will be No. 6 before we are through.

I am glad to have been able to say these few words today; I hope I have said nothing to offend the feelings of any member, for I did not intend to do so, and I hope I have said something to repay the kindness that farmers have always shown to me. I have dealt with farmers all my life. My father was a homesteader and I was brought up on a homestead. I know the work from the ground up, and I know that the bulk of the money the homesteaders made went for goods manufactured in Ontario and Quebec. We made a living out of it, a plain honest well-cooked living, but the eastern manufacturers made a profit on our clothes, our boots, our vehicles, our binders and other implements, and our twine. All those necessities came from Ontario and Quebec. We in the west voted that the manufacturing industries should have protection year after year. Some of you should have been behind the scenes as I was. I recall hearing my dad and mother argue and argue about that problem, and my mother would always ask why we should pay so dearly for binders just in order that industries in the east might be protected and Americans prevented from selling their binders in this country. I used to listen to these arguments and wonder what they were all about.

Well, honourable senators, we stood it, we fought it through and we put Canadian industry on its feet. We made Canada a great industrial country. Now we say to industry, to the management and to the workers, you