

We have asked Mr. King to make the strongest representations possible on our behalf.

I do not think I am breaking any confidences by reading that last paragraph. That is the attitude of the Prince Albert board of trade. I should like to read a telegram, dated June 14, which I received from the same organization. It reads:

Understand definite word has been received to close Rosthern experimental station. People here anxious to have same retained if at all possible. Could you give us any lead which would assist to bring this about. Wire reply.

I come now to Saskatoon, which is to the south of Rosthern. This constituency was formerly represented in the house by the late Doctor Young. I shall read just a paragraph from a letter received from the Saskatoon board of trade, under date of June 5, 1940, as follows:

The Saskatoon board is well acquainted with the many strenuous duties the government must undertake in these days of conflict, but we feel that if it is at all possible, the services of this station should be maintained for the province of Saskatchewan. The station has been of real service to agricultural interests of the whole province, particularly the northern section.

We assure you the Saskatoon board of trade will support any move which will keep this experimental station in operation.

I have another letter here from a member of the legislature for Prince Albert city. He says:

I wish to point out that this is one of the oldest experimental stations in the province of Saskatchewan and in years gone by has given most valuable service to the agricultural districts in this part of the province and if it is discontinued at this time the loss from an agricultural point of view will be serious.

The dominion government has a large investment there at the present time which has been built up over a great number of years and to allow that investment to simply disappear at the present time will undoubtedly mean a setback to agricultural educational activities in this part of the province, and in view of the serious times which agriculture has had to contend with during the last decade it seems to me absolutely imperative that this station should be kept in operation even if only on a restricted basis in view of present difficulties in financing Canada's war-time economy.

I have letters here from the Prince Albert Horticultural society commending the splendid work which that farm is doing in horticulture. This is not from the Rosthern district but from the Prince Albert district—sixty miles away. Is it not likely that the people out there would know more about the good effect of the work done than some officials at Ottawa?

I have a letter from the Prince Albert Agricultural society pointing out the good work that has been done at Rosthern in providing foundation live stock to all parts

of northern Saskatchewan. I shall not weary the committee by reading it because I appreciate very much the sympathy which has already been extended in giving me time to read as much as I have done. I should like, however, to read a sentence or two from a letter from a member of the legislature from Saskatoon city. He says:

However, I believe it would be a very serious move for the government to make unless it is an absolute necessity.

I know you will do your utmost to do whatever is in the best interests of Canada and, in my opinion, the Rosthern experimental farm should be kept open. I am simply writing you to tell you that you have my full support.

I have letters and resolutions from pool organizations and other organizations within a radius of practically one hundred miles of the Rosthern experimental station, urging me and begging me to do something to see to it that this facility which has been given to our hard-pressed farmers of western Canada is not withdrawn—a station that was established there for the service of thousands of our farmers by our late great leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If it is so necessary to save money, they suggest that the Rosthern station be put on a subsistence basis, because the income is quite substantial, and that it be carried on upon that basis until after the war.

There is an investment there of over \$119,000, and I understand it is proposed, Mr. Chairman, to sell that farm and auction off the stock that is on it. Some of the cattle there are of such a high quality that if they get into the hands of people who are not fully qualified to look after them and make the best use of them for breeding purposes, they will be of very little use to the community as a whole. At the station they are used to provide foundation live stock to supply that whole area to the best advantage. Here we have an investment of \$119,000 which it is proposed to wipe out, to do away with all the advantages which that farm gives to the people of northern Saskatchewan, when it is suggested by people in whom I can have confidence that, if it is absolutely necessary, by cutting down on expenditures that are not absolutely essential, the farm could be carried on at a net expenditure of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. When I see how much money is voted to beautify the city of Ottawa, hundreds of thousands of dollars, and read the other items in the estimates, and then see that in order to save money it is proposed to wipe out the one thing of real value to our farmers, that has been given to the district which I have the honour to represent, on the say-so of some people in Ottawa that that farm is no longer serving a useful purpose, I must rise in my