

Haig) was originally nothing but ranching country. Around Lethbridge and west to the mountains it is rich and fertile, but in other sections, where the heavy Chinook came, the land has never been suitable for growing grain. I would refer honourable members to Mr. John W. Dafoe's book on Clifford Sifton, where he states distinctly that that never was a farming country. I was engaged in ranching there, and I had to give up. I let go 20,000 acres south of Medicine Hat. It is hard to describe the effect of the very hot winds out there. You might get a little moisture, and, as a result, have a small quantity of grain growing, but the whole thing would sometimes disappear in three or four days.

We threw up both hands and gave this land away to people. We said, "Here is a rich, fertile area, fertilized by the buffalo." But, despite all its richness, you cannot grow a crop without rain. It is true that once every ten or fifteen years you may get a heavy rain, and then anything will grow. You could put your walking cane into the ground and it would sprout. But in between there are long dry spells, when it is impossible to raise any kind of crop at all. So I agree with the honourable junior senator from Winnipeg that it would be wise to move the people out of that district.

I say again, honourable members, that the farmer who has not good live stock on his land is not a farmer at all. Look at the thousands of successful Ontario farms. Look at the farms down along the St. Lawrence, where the old habitant, before he dies, will what is called a never-dying cow to be kept on in the family.

I am not talking from lack of experience. I may not be able to express myself as well as the legal gentlemen sitting on each side of me. I listened to their stories. I need not tell my honourable friend from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig) anything about my experience in the West. He lives in Winnipeg and knows what I was doing out there; and my right honourable leader opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) used to visit me, and he saw what I had done. To the young men who are walking our streets and holding out their hands for money, I would say, "In the West there is opportunity for you just as good as I had, or better." We pioneered in those days. I still believe in good live stock. I do not want to sell wheat. I can make a dollar a bushel out of my wheat by feeding it to hogs, at the price of bacon to-day. I can make 80 cents a bushel on an average crop of oats by feeding it to live stock. I believe in live stock—cattle and hogs. A man of experience can make good prices out of his grain by marketing it in the form of live stock.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS.

I am not antagonistic to the poor fellows who took the land away from us and drove us out. I have no ill-feeling towards them. I retired in 1926, when I exported my last shipment of cattle and quit the live stock industry. I sold my two farms of 1,000 acres each, on Portage avenue, one to an Irishman, the other to a Scotchman. They were both making money by feeding live stock and cutting wild hay. As I say, I do not want to oppose the poor fellows who drove us out. I told them when they came there, "It is no use trying to grow crops." I had been there many years and saw what the drought did.

And may I add, all the pests we had up there came from the United States. The honourable member from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) knows that the mange came over the line into our cattle and we had to put in dip chutes. Then we had grasshoppers—they all came from the other side; and rust also. If we could only have a year without those pests, I believe there would be changed conditions in Western Canada.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The honourable member from Winnipeg South-Centre (Hon. Mr. Haig) said that the effect of this Bill is to tax the good farmer to help the poor farmer. I hope he does not mean poor in the sense of incapacity.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: As to the drought in Alberta, all the best crops this last year were in southern Alberta. The Peace river country was pretty well dried out, and they had a bad time getting a crop around Edmonton, because of lack of rain. The trouble is the rain does not come where you want it. With the exception of that Medicine Hat corner down to the boundary—

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Purple Springs.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Well, that is on the way. Outside of that corner there was a good crop in southern Alberta. We had a bill before us a few days ago to take farmers in drought areas off the land and fence it for grazing purposes. You cannot peremptorily order a man to move off his place, but this Government and preceding Governments have been working over a period of years to classify this land. They are working now in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to segregate lands that are marginal or sub-marginal in order to fence them off for pasture and try to re-seed them to some kind of grass. It may not give as good results as the original grass, but they are testing varieties which are making fairly good pasture. I hope that