

Quebec, there is only one large centre, the city of Montreal. One third of the Quebec population lives in the Montreal area. There are packing houses there, but further east, there are very few packing houses if any. You may not know that when the eastern farmers wish to send livestock to the packing house in Montreal, the average cost is from \$12 to \$15 higher than that paid by the western farmers to ship their livestock to Montreal.

Earlier the honourable senator from Lumsden (Hon. Mr. Pearson) was speaking on taxation systems, or something in that line. It seems to me it should be possible to consider the problem as a whole, so as to find the organizations that could help our farmers, which would enable them not only to go in for dairy farming and cattle breeding, but also to promote forestry operations, and to help those farmers to drain their lands.

In my region, in the lower St. Lawrence, where lands are practically unproductive, because hundreds of acres of land would have to be drained, it is easy to realize no farmer can achieve that all by himself. It is only through an agreement between the federal and the provincial governments that such draining could be achieved and the fertility of these lands increased. That is no pipe dream.

Let us consider what is happening elsewhere, in Italy, for example, by the drainage of the Pontine marshes. Those marshes extended over hundreds of acres of waste land which, in addition, swarmed with germs and disease-spreading insects. This project was achieved within a year by a dictator. I am convinced that one day, under our democratic system, through co-operation and good sense, without a dictatorial government, we will successfully achieve a similar project. That region of Italy, formerly known as Cain land, is today one of the most fertile. This is an example of people who made a thorough study of the problems involved.

It is sometimes said that we, in the Senate, are thinkers, real thinkers. Yesterday, an honourable senator said: I am a Conservative. Well, I am a Liberal; but we are all Canadian Senators, we represent everybody, the whole country. If, in this committee, of which we have been members for three or four years, we can manage to co-operate with all those who have looked into that problem in order to come up with something constructive tomorrow, then instead of writing a book

called "The Dying Land" we will be able, on the contrary, to write one entitled "The Country Where Wheat Grows in a Living Land."

(Text):

Hon. R. B. Horner: Honourable senators, may I have just a word? I think the senator who has just taken his seat (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt) is not quite correct when he says that all the assistance goes to western farmers and none goes to eastern farmers. He will recall that assistance on butter and cream has always been held at five cents a pound more in eastern Canada than in western Canada, for the simple reason that the west was supposed to be nearer to the supply of feed. The same thing applies to the floor price of hogs; the price has been four or five cents higher for eastern farmers than for western farmers. I merely want to keep the record straight with reference to the very large amount of money being spent to assist eastern farmers by way of freight assistance on grain coming to eastern Canada from western Canada.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE
CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Haig, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche), for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. F. W. Gershaw: Honourable senators, may I, first of all, congratulate His Honour the Speaker, and the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Brooks), on the high positions they have attained. I wish also to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on their eloquence and, more particularly, in a humble way I wish to extend a warm welcome to the new senators.

I have spoken in the debate on the motion for an address on quite a few occasions, and on all of them my remarks were far removed from party politics. I have spoken on such subjects as the evil of prize fighting. I still think it is all wrong for two young men in perfect physical condition to stand up and attack each other with violence, and sometimes viciousness. Whether the bout lasts two minutes or ten rounds, one or other of the contestants is likely to be very seriously hurt. The human frame is not constituted to withstand those sledge-hammer blows which are inflicted during a prize fight.