

and 1937 there had been very little growth of any kind. This soil had drifted in the fall of 1937 and during the summer and winter of 1937, and last spring it looked as though it would be impossible for the farmers to seed a crop. Through the work of the agricultural improvement association and with the help of the experimental farm they continued to do good work in this area and have made real progress in solving some of the serious problems facing the farmers in southwestern Saskatchewan. Chief among these is the soil drifting menace which has harassed the prairie farmer severely during the past few years. The unusual drought conditions during 1937 left all the cultivated land in the district tributary to Swift Current either in a drifting condition or in a condition which gave great concern and alarm. This was due chiefly to the fact that the crop seeded in the spring of 1937 failed to grow. With the exception of the scanty stubble carried over from 1936, the whole country was practically bare of vegetation cover of any kind.

Following severe drifting during the winter and summer and fall of 1937 the wind-swept prairie presented a horrible spectacle in the spring of 1938. Thousands of acres in a solid block were swept clear, and miniature deserts covering many thousands of acres could be found in many points in the southwest. The farmers individually were helpless, because any cultural work attempted was quickly destroyed by the wind and drifting soil from adjoining fields. It was evident that the cooperation of every farmer in the entire district would be necessary if drifting were to be stopped and the land seeded. It is in this respect that the agricultural improvement association proved a great help in solving the problem. Meetings were held and plans were laid which included the furrowing of entire areas on the same day. Whole families turned out to stake out the fields in eight-rod strips, and every kind of furrowing implement, from walking ploughs to the new steel lister, was used. By ploughing furrows at eight to ten rod intervals the drifting could be temporarily stopped. The land would then be quickly cultivated to bring the first lumps to the surface to prevent further soil drifting until crops on the alternate strips were established. Difficulties presented themselves, however, and it was frequently necessary after a severe storm to do the furrowing all over again. Furrows alone would not control drifting, and when a storm arose before the whole area was worked, furrows were completely filled. It was here that the organization proved its great value. Encouragement and support were needed to keep a large body of farmers working in the

face of great difficulties. Special equipment and motor power were needed where suitable machines were lacking and power was insufficient. Agricultural improvement associations through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and the help of the experimental station at Swift Current were able to supply a limited quantity of this equipment. This helped the less fortunate of their members to fight the battle of the drifting soil to a successful conclusion. In all areas where the organized effort was supplied, the drifting was controlled and the crop established. Great credit is due to the farmers who cooperated so wholeheartedly in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties.

The agricultural improvement associations have been responsible for many new activities in southwestern Saskatchewan. To their credit they have the solution of the soil drifting problem. The experimental work carried on by the experimental station at Swift Current in cooperation with the agricultural improvement association members has laid the foundation for a successful soil drifting control program which will eventually bring all drifting soil under control. Therefore there is in southwestern Saskatchewan no dust bowl that cannot be controlled.

For just a few minutes I should like to say something about the Canada-United States trade agreement as it affects western Canada, particularly our live stock exports. Already this year we have shipped 17,702 cattle to the United States in comparison with 3,256 head last year. So it is plain to be seen that the reduction of one and one-half cents per pound on heavy cattle over 700 pounds is an inducement to the growers of cattle in Canada and particularly in western Canada to take advantage of the price of good beef cattle in the United States. During the first week of December of last year I had occasion to visit a big feeder in the southern part of the province who was feeding about 1,200 head of beef cattle. Those were all two and three year old steers, weighing 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. He had been feeding them from about October 15, and he told me he expected to start shipping them to the United States on the first of January. A few days ago I received a letter from this feeder telling me about seven carloads of cattle which he had shipped to Chicago at the first of the year and for which he had just received returns. He estimated that on those cattle he saved about \$6.50 per head in duty, and his net profit, not including that, was about \$20.50 over what he would have received on the Toronto market on the same day.