

able. The Englishman replied, "I don't know, but I would offer you this bit of advice at any rate: Don't talk of Canada's natural resources, because we have heard so much about them, and they have cost us some money."

This is probably the last session of this parliament before the electoral wrangle takes place, and hon. gentlemen will go back to their constituents and appeal to party spirit and try to make the best they can of their party's cause. I submit that neither party would endanger its chances of victory by making some concessions, by trying to create an operating understanding among all parties with regard to a few questions, because thereby they would enhance the confidence of the people in the sincerity of each group, and also do something to restore, what is badly needed, the faith of the people in our parliamentary institutions and in parliamentary government. For I can tell you that it is going down and down and down quite rapidly. Denunciation of this group may bring victory to one party or the other once or twice; but if this group is ever victorious, if a group which might be, from the point of view of the other parties, worse than this group, ever takes its place, it will be because of the failure of the old parties to realize their responsibility to the people of Canada, to their own members, and to their friends and supporters.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): In the few moments that remain before eleven o'clock I desire to bring to the attention of the house some problems that are of particular interest to the district whence I come. I wish first of all to congratulate the mover (Mr. Gobeil) and the seconder (Mr. Barber) of the address on the splendid speeches which they made in opening this debate. I have had the pleasure of knowing the seconder of the debate for many years and it is all the more pleasing to congratulate him.

All through the west, particularly in the district from which I come, there are people who have suffered greatly from the conditions in which they now find themselves. They have borne their troubles with a brave spirit and have carried on in spite of great difficulties. But debt and despondency are facing them. In many places the crops have been a failure; in some sections they have failed three and four years in succession. These people are therefore at the present time in desperate straits. Their gardens failed to grow; fodder was not available, and their live stock are dying from the hard winter. It is true that relief is being given, and in most instances the bare necessities of life are being

supplied; but in a general way the condition is most unfortunate and many are discouraged. Even where crops did grow, the low prices which have been received have not covered the actual out-of-pocket costs of production. The people are asking themselves this question: How can we continue to sell cattle at 2, 3 and 3½ cents a pound when it costs us 5 cents a pound to produce them?

The speech from the throne indicates that some marketing board will be established, and therefore we shall have another opportunity of discussing the who's problem of the marketing of cattle. The cattle industry is one of the oldest of which we have any record. All down through the ages it has been the chief occupation of mankind, and in Alberta it is still an industry that holds out great hope, with a future probably greater than that of the wheat industry, especially in the southern parts of the province. Yet we find that these large ranchers, who have had vision, who have struggled along year in and year out, meeting conditions as they have come, are now on the verge of bankruptcy because of the low prices they are receiving. When the price of beef was 7, 8 and 9 cents a pound there were certain transportation charges that had to be met; and now that the price is as low as 1½ cents, sometimes 2 and 3 cents, we find practically the same charges. The same freight rates are in existence; the same loading charges, the same stockyard charges, the same insurance charges, and so on, that existed previously exist to-day. The same high price must be paid for hay in the terminals, and altogether these expenses are so great that the returns from carloads of fine steers have been as low as one and one-half cents and one and one-quarter cents per pound live weight. These things tend to discourage those ranchers who have become famous for their hospitality, vision, and hard-working ability.

We have heard a great deal about wheat and the people are asking the same question in regard to it. How, they say, can we continue to grow wheat at from 40 to 45 cents a bushel when it is costing us at least 60 cents a bushel to produce it. During the last few days we have heard a good deal about the wheat situation in Europe, and although it does not hold out much hope, we must look forward with the expectation that the price of wheat will meet production costs, because we cannot to any great extent turn our farms into producing any other article of food or use them for any other purposes. With the spirit that is abroad, it is no wonder that the people in the west are turning toward state ownership, communism; that they are looking