

and have been amazed to find nearly all those municipalities and school districts reporting surpluses, balances in the bank, and, in certain cases, taxes collected to the amount of seventy-five or eighty per cent. As an instance of what has taken place I should like to mention the little town of Nanton, not far from High River, with a population of about 1,000. I am going to read from a newspaper report in respect to that town's position, because I think it will help to efface the impression that exists in many minds that Western Canada is insolvent. It is from the report of the annual meeting of the town of Nanton:

The financial statement showed the town to be in good shape. The town does not owe a single dollar of debenture indebtedness, the last payment being made over a year ago.

The amount of cash on hand is about \$2,000 more than last year.

Some conveniences were provided for the people, for it says:

Total assets are placed at over \$29,000, which includes a \$15,000 skating rink and curling rink, town hall, fire station and equipment, and street maintaining equipment, on all of which there is not a single dollar of indebtedness.

That is the record of one community, and I think I could quite easily bring forth evidence to show that, the two large cities in the province of Alberta excepted, nearly all the urban municipalities are in a strong financial position. I have not heard of any municipalities in Alberta being forced into the position of many municipalities in the province of Ontario which have practically fallen into the hands of a receiver and are having their affairs administered by a commission or some government official. That sort of thing has not occurred in Alberta.

While I am on my feet and speaking of the position of municipalities I may refer to the city of Lethbridge, which has a population of perhaps 15,000. The city manager of Lethbridge in making his annual report predicted that if no heavy capital expenditures were made in the next few years that city would be out of debt in 1943. The sinking fund of the city is in a healthy condition, and its tax rate has been reduced; all this in spite of the fact that its contribution to relief has been much heavier than that of other cities of similar population, because of the unemployed coal miners in the district. Good management in past years has placed the city in such a position that unless heavy capital expenditures are undertaken it will be possible for it to be completely out of debt in seven or eight years. I started out with a somewhat gloomy picture. I have tried to end up with something a little brighter.

There is one other thought that I should like to impress upon honourable members in connection with Western Canada, and it relates to the Farm Rehabilitation Act passed by the late Government. If I have the ear of the present Government I am going to say that that Act should be maintained, and that it should be assisted out of the treasury of the Dominion of Canada, for the reason that it will help considerably in rehabilitating many sections of Western Canada which were believed to have been destroyed as far as agriculture was concerned. I think I have told this Chamber on other occasions that ten or fifteen years ago southeastern Alberta had an experience similar to that of certain other sections during recent years. Southeastern Alberta was regarded as a dried-out area with no future possibilities. Many people left it, with the assistance of the Government, but a considerable number remained. Those remaining were told they could not look for any more assistance, and that if their crops failed they would have to take care of themselves. You may be surprised to learn that during the past four or five years the greater portion of that area has been one of the most productive and best sections in southern Alberta. Knowing that they could get no help from outside, the people there set about discovering the best methods of farming. They found the right way to farm—the proper implements to use and the proper methods of cultivating the land. I am not acquainted with the dried-out areas in southern Saskatchewan, but I have been told that it might be much better for the governments to try to keep experienced people in that area than to encourage them to go to areas in the far northern part of the province, where the possibilities may be no better, perhaps not as good. The Farm Rehabilitation Act aims at the recovery of the areas that have been damaged so much in recent years, and in view of what happened in southeastern Alberta I am convinced that any money spent in showing the farmers that by adopting certain methods they might get a crop in what are considered dry years would be well spent, and that it would be better to keep them where they are than to send them some place else, where the result might not be better.

If I were to devote myself to any other question mentioned in the Speech from the Throne it would be to unemployment. I feel very strongly that we are going to have unemployment for a considerable time to come, no matter how greatly purchasing power may be restored. A new race of men and women has been growing up of recent