

require changed methods of procedure; nevertheless, wheat growing will continue for many years to come, and wheat will be one of the major crops in Western Canada; and it would be a tragedy should anything happen to prevent people from growing wheat in that country.

The men and women of Western Canada to-day are anxiously asking: "What of the future?" We hear a great deal about diversified farming. Last session I expressed my views with regard to the future of Western Canada and the system of farming that would be found most profitable and most enduring. I have not changed my ideas since then. I still believe in the smaller unit; I still believe in mixed farming where it is possible. I would point out, however, that large sections of Western Canada are not at all suitable for mixed farming. There are large districts in Manitoba and in the Province of Saskatchewan—I am not so well acquainted with Alberta—where it is impossible to find a water supply, without which it would not be profitable to attempt to keep stock. I believe that in the well watered sections mixed farming will solve our problems; but unfortunately such a solution cannot become effective before a few years, because one cannot get into the business of raising live stock all at once.

A scheme to help the farmers of the West has been inaugurated, and the credit for bringing it to the attention of the public may be given, perhaps, to Mr. Beatty, of the Canadian Pacific Railway. No doubt most of you have heard something about that scheme. A corporation is to be formed with a capital of \$5,000,000. This money is to be lent to the farmers for the purpose of enabling them to go into live stock raising as a basis for their mixed farming. I am not very sure just how much is to be advanced to each farmer, but I think that probably the average will be about \$200. This scheme is based on what is known as the Minnesota plan. I have the plan here. Some of you may have received this pamphlet. A scheme of the same kind has been in effect in Minnesota, Montana, and the two Dakotas, and has worked a revolution in those states. Where previously there was scarcity or want of prosperity, the farmers have entirely changed their condition and are now doing well under a system of mixed farming.

I have noted carefully, in reading this pamphlet, that in the loaning of money great precautions are taken to see that it is properly spent, and that stock will be given only to people who are in a position to care for it and who understand something about it. I

Hon. Mr. FORKE.

have no hesitation in saying that unless the whole scheme is carried through as a business institution and in accordance with business principles, it will surely fail. In Manitoba we have had some experience in lending money to farmers to purchase stock and implements, improve their farms, and so on. The Manitoba senators who are present will know what I am speaking about. We had what was known as the Cow Scheme, whereby the Provincial Government lent money to the farmers to enable them to purchase cows, and to assist them to go into mixed farming, if you please. That scheme was tried. I do not know whether the farmers benefited much by the cows or not, but I do know that the Government lost nearly all the money loaned to buy the cows. We have had also a system of rural credits which, on the face of it, seemed to be a good scheme and one that ought to work well. The Provincial Government furnished money, to be loaned by a local board on which the Government had a representative. No amount of money was to be loaned unless the assets of the farmer in excess of his liabilities were sufficient to cover the amount of the loan. Apparently the matter was gone into very carefully, and the Provincial Government furnished a very large sum of money; but, honourable members, in that also they lost a very large amount that they will never regain. Then we had the Farm Loan Association, whereby the local Government was lending money to farmers on mortgages on their farms. I cannot tell you what acreage the Provincial Government of Manitoba has to-day—I know that it is very large—that came into their possession under foreclosed mortgages.

That is the history of three schemes to improve conditions. I do not think the failure was due so much to the schemes as to the fact that proper care was not taken to see that the money was loaned to the right kind of people. I think it is perfectly obvious to those who are acquainted with public affairs that when a government lends money it is more difficult for it to get it back than it would be for anybody else to do so. The hope of this scheme, and its success, are dependent on whether business principles are observed, and upon seeing to it, before the money is loaned, that the stock and the men are of the right kind to make a success of mixed farming. People who advocate mixed farming, more especially city people—and I say this in all kindness—do not understand, perhaps, that it is much easier to grow wheat than it is to raise stock. I know that the immigration pamphlets that I used to send out when I was Minister of Immigration told