

out our cattle entirely from the United States. It will be remembered that a few years ago Mexico was shipping three times as many cattle to the United States as was Canada. I took the matter up with the then Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Euler, and asked him so to arrange matters that Canada and Mexico would ship cattle into the United States in the ratio of their respective imports from that country. Mr. Euler sent two men to Washington, and within four days he rose in his place in the house and stated that he wished to advise the hon. member for Wellington North that Canada's allocation of cattle to be shipped to the United States market was to be in proportion to our imports from that country. As a result of that agreement we shipped into the United States that year three times as many cattle as we did the year before, and that arrangement continued in effect until the present embargo was imposed.

It is a serious thing, Mr. Speaker, to close any avenue of trade and commerce.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Hear, hear.

Mr. BLAIR: I am glad to hear that coming from the old Conservative party. I should not like to see the Liberal party adopt a policy of restricting trade and commerce, because trade and commerce is the great thing to keep any nation on its feet.

I trust that the representations which have been made by the farmers of my constituency will be given consideration by the government. They believe that some form of undertaking has been given by the government with respect to the price of Canadian cattle.

Moreover, I should like to see the control of our cattle trade put into the hands of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). He may have his faults; indeed he has often been criticized in my district, but I have more confidence in him that I have in a bank manager. I am always afraid of a bank manager and will keep away from him in business affairs. I think it would be well for us to develop closer relations between Canada and the United States because we are both fighting in the same cause, and it should be possible to arrange for parity between the price of Canadian and that of United States cattle. Then our cattle would flow freely on to the market; the Canadian farmer would be on an equal footing with the United States farmer as far as price is concerned, and the Canadian farmer would win out every time because we have better soil, better cattle and better farmers. Therefore I hope that the government will give these representations its serious consideration. There is a real necessity for raising the price of Canadian cattle, and there is the

further fact that when spring comes, if nothing is done in the meantime to raise the price to our farmers, Canadian cattle from east and west will be thrown on to the market. What will happen then to the price?

The packers spread the report that there was a scarcity of beef. Why, Mr. Speaker, the country is full of cattle, and the sooner we realize that the better. It would not hurt the Canadian people if a few of our Canadian cattle went over to the United States side. Those cattle would have to be paid for in United States funds, and we would still have a fair supply of Canadian cattle left to meet the demands of this country.

Mrs. DORISE W. NIELSEN (North Battleford): Mr. Speaker, when I listened to the speech from the throne I certainly realized that there is a tremendous number of problems which we must begin to tackle at the present time and that there is a great deal of planning to do; but reading the speech over again, I thought from what I knew of conditions in western Canada that there were some things which I should like to bring to the attention of this house which are far more urgent than any planning for future security. After all is said and done, the majority of us in this house realize that there are many things which have yet to be done before we can have any right to feel that victory is secure for us. A tremendous number of things must yet be done to ensure that victory, and in the doing of them we can lay the foundations for the post-war years. I am in agreement with planning; but planning, that is in an academic way, will fall far short of what will be required when the time comes to put those plans into effect, unless while the war is continuing we lay the foundation, the economic basis, so that we shall have something substantial upon which to work. It is because I believe this that I wish to devote the main part of what I have to say to the question of the fight on the food front.

Before I come to that, there is one thing I wish to mention in passing which came to my attention as I listened to the speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). Toward the end of his speech he mentioned the various categories or types of people whom he hoped to see as representatives in this chamber in the years to come. He mentioned labour and the farmers; he referred specifically to returned men and hoped that many of them would have seats in this house to help with future legislation. He then mentioned men with broad human sympathies. But he never mentioned anything about the women.