

to be covered by it will have to move off their present land onto land where they can engage in diversified production. I do not always agree with my honourable friend from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins), but in his arguments about cattle he may be right. I know that in those parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta where diversified farming is carried on, the struggle during these bad years has been withstood better than in other parts of the province.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: That supports my argument.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I do not want to take up any more time on this measure, but I wish to notify the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) that I intend to speak at greater length when we receive the other wheat bill which we are expecting. I am in favour of this measure, though it does not answer our demands, nor will it help to remedy the existing situation in a fundamental way. It may tide over an emergency. I can understand why honourable gentlemen who in another place represent the constituencies of Souris, Weyburn, Assiniboia, Wood Mountain, Lethbridge, and other southern parts of these provinces would be in favour of the measure. Those parts will benefit from it, but other sections of the provinces will have to pay for it ultimately.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: "Help thy neighbour."

Hon. Mr. HAIG: If I were sure the measure would permanently help him, I should be more in favour of it. But I do not think it is any good to keep him in a state of poverty for ever.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? Surely to move these people from the land they now occupy to better sections would not cost any more than the \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000 which we shall have to pay out every year under this measure.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I want to be fair to the present Government. I want honourable members to understand the way that the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance would naturally look at the situation. We in Western Canada have always hoped that the lack of moisture in certain sections was a temporary condition, and that the cycle of better years would return. So far it has not come back. Ultimately we must face the problem of moving the farmers from those dried-out areas. I think that if the Bennett Government had faced that problem in 1931 the country would be better off to-day. But,

mind you, I am not blaming the Bennett Government, because I myself did not foresee, nor do I believe anybody could have foreseen, the desolation that has stricken parts of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. In that part of Alberta where my honourable friend from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) lives there is an irrigation system. I went through there two years ago, and it is a paradise, producing 60 and 65 bushels to the acre. But within five miles of that district nothing at all grows—nothing but weeds blowing in the wind. It is my opinion that if present conditions continue it will be much cheaper to move all the people affected than to provide for them as under this Bill.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: I should not like my honourable friend to lead people to believe that the irrigated areas are producing too much wheat.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: No.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: The people there are getting out of wheat into other things.

Hon. A. D. McRAE: Honourable senators, I should like to say a word or two with reference to the dry district which the honourable junior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig) mentioned. Thirty-four years ago I spent a considerable time in that section, and drove over it in a buckboard. That happened to be a fairly dry year. I am not exaggerating when I say that if you worked all day you could not pull grass enough to fill your hat. There is no doubt that from a long-range point of view it would be in the best interest of those people, and less expensive than the plan we are now following, to move them to better sections in the West. I made that statement in this House some years ago, for I recall that telegrams, far from complimentary, were sent to me by business people located in villages out in those areas.

That part of the country has been dry for seventy years. It should have been allowed to remain as cattle ranches, but unfortunately it has been broken up, and nobody knows how long it will take for the buffalo grass to come back, if it ever does. Undoubtedly we are faced with the alternative of continuing to give support to the people in that section or moving them to northern parts of the provinces, where there is undoubtedly land on which they can work out a living.

Hon. HENRY A. MULLINS: Honourable senators, perhaps I have had as long an experience in the West as most men. The whole area mentioned by the honourable junior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr.