

grain. In fact, one farmer in my own constituency planted a 12-acre field to barley and his results were most amazing. Even some of my friends from western Canada and Ontario might doubt my accuracy when I say that his yield was an average of 117 bushels per acre. I know that this is well above the average, but, to be fair, the man told me that in the previous fall he fertilized this field very heavily. He had plowed it under and the soil was in excellent condition. He had an early season this spring, and when planting his barley he also put on more commercial fertilizer. We were fortunate in having a reasonably wet spring—not too wet to get onto the land but wet enough for good growing—and that accounted for his tremendous crop.

I spoke with other farmers in various parts of the province and they were also getting good results, though not equal to the one I first referred to. However, some of the farmers with whom I spoke are endeavouring now to raise grain for feed, and they were wondering if it would not be possible to adopt some system whereby payments would be made to them along the lines of those which are now being made to bring the western grain to the Atlantic provinces. This would assist them in raising much larger crops and would assist them in buying fertilizer, which is very expensive.

By doing this they would improve the lot of the farmers in the community; moreover, they would improve the economy of the province, and I think we will all agree that if the economy of any one of the provinces can be enhanced, it is bound to affect the economy of Canada as a whole. I think it is something well worth considering.

I was interested in the discussion on this matter in the other place, particularly in view of the fact that I had talked with quite a number of the farmers myself.

I realize also that there are many honourable senators, as well as many people in other walks of life, who do not realize that farming can be successful in Nova Scotia. It is true that we do not have large level fields, as is the case in western Canada or even in Ontario and Quebec. However, our temperature is conducive to fast growth and we have to use, as I mentioned previously, a lot of fertilizer.

As I understand it, in the Prairie provinces there is plenty of potash in all the fields, and while they use certain types of fertilizers they do not have to use those which are blended with potash. That again cuts down the cost.

Moreover, our provincial government along with our provincial agricultural college and federal institutions, which are endeavouring to assist the farmers in the Maritime provinces, are all doing good work. The various farm associations are reasonably effective and are trying hard to be successful.

Perhaps it would not be out of place if I mentioned one factor that I think is doing much to improve our farms and to keep our young people on the farms. I refer to the 4H Clubs. Most of you know that these clubs are endeavouring to instruct both young boys and girls, the teenagers, on improved methods of farming. These growing people are taking an interest. If you go to any of the local fairs now you will find both boys and girls showing cattle and stock of various kinds. They take care of them on the farms from the time they are young animals and they bring them along and show them. Interest is really building up and these clubs are most worthwhile.

In the Province of Nova Scotia, as is the case in other places, one of the big problems has been to keep young people on the farms. Nowadays, however, I can see quite an improvement. There seems to be quite a difference of feeling, and if we can get a little help in the growing of grain I am sure that too will help solve this problem.

It may be said that we are always asking for something, and I suppose it is true, but I do not feel that the people of the Atlantic provinces or of British Columbia are asking for any help in this industry which is not being granted to people in other places and in connection with other industries. While we may have important industries, such as the paper industry, I think we all have to admit that agriculture in its various forms is the backbone of a country like Canada. Therefore we should not hesitate in asking for and urging that very careful consideration be given to any measure which would tend to help these people. Above all it is important that we should help them to help themselves.

I was interested to read today an editorial from the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* dealing with this problem. It is under the heading "Strong Board", and while I do not intend to quote it in full, it does mention many points which I have brought forward this afternoon. In that editorial the following sentence appears:

Nova Scotia farmers have relied too heavily on subsidized western feed grain. They have had too little incentive to use suitable land in this province for the cultivation of home-grown feed grains.