

machinery and other things into proper repair. If I recollect aright he said it would require \$100,000,000. Think what it would mean if it were possible to restore the purchasing power of the farmers of Saskatchewan so that they could undertake such repairs, which are undoubtedly necessary. Anyone who travels through agricultural communities knows that houses, barns, fences, are in disrepair and need the expenditure of money upon them. But the owners have not the money to spend; consequently these properties are becoming less valuable every day.

I know, however, from what has happened during the last six months or more, that even with the prices obtainable during 1935 there has been a restoration, slow but sure, of purchasing power. Merchants in many centres of Western Canada did better during 1935 than they had been doing during the previous five years. To understand the improvement taking place one need only look at bank clearings and car loadings. This improvement is due to the fact that farmers in some districts are in better condition than they were, and are out to buy. If their purchasing power continues to increase there will be an increase in employment, because the industries that have felt the loss of purchasing power in Western Canada will begin to benefit from the improvement and will start to put men to work again.

In speaking of improvement I have restricted my remarks mainly to the situation of the grain farmer, but, honourable senators, I do not want this Chamber to think that farming in Western Canada is confined to the raising of grain. I noticed the other day the statement that in the twelve months of last year the province of Alberta marketed more than one million of what are called commercial hogs. I can remember the time when Alberta could not supply its own requirements in that regard. Now it is producing enough hogs to ship for commercial purposes the number I have mentioned; and that figure does not take into account those kept on the farm, of the number of which there is probably no record.

We know, too, of the development that has taken place in the cattle industry. I am far from being as well equipped as the honourable senator from High River (Hon. Mr. Riley) to speak of that industry, but I know that there was a very considerable increase in the marketing of live stock last year and that this increase contributed towards the improvement of purchasing power. I think it was in the Winnipeg Free Press I read that the cattle exported to the United States market last year totalled more than 124,000, as compared

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with only 6,000 the year before. That is a vast improvement, and it is adding to the purchasing power of the West, because it is bringing money into the possession of one class of our agriculturists, the live stock producers, who were suffering keenly for a number of years. If that improvement can be maintained we are assured of the maintenance and increase of purchasing power.

I can paint a brighter picture of the development of other natural resources besides those of agriculture in the four Western Provinces. Mining has been developed in every province of Western Canada and in the Northwest Territories. Despite the fact that we say money is hard to get, it seems to be possible to get it to carry on mining development. Such a development has been taking place in northern Manitoba, and a new field in northern Saskatchewan promises to be as rich as any in the Western Provinces. We have heard also of discoveries in the Northwest Territories, and we know what has happened in British Columbia. When the depression came upon us we thought the development in the oil fields of the province of Alberta would cease. That has not been so. Individuals and companies have continued to carry on. They have put down new wells and found new fields, and I am more confident than ever I was that in the very near future there is going to be discovered in Western Canada an extensive oil field which will supply a large proportion of our national needs.

Let me give an instance of a field discovered some years ago south of Lethbridge, not far from the Montana border. A number of companies which had put down wells and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in that field had failed to find oil, but during the past twelve months a company from California, with private capital and no flotation of stock, put down a well, spending more than \$200,000, and discovered oil in that territory. Such things have been happening in many parts of Western Canada, though the public at large is not aware of them.

So I believe that as far as the natural resources of Western Canada are concerned we have every reason to be confident about its future.

Many things have occurred to destroy the faith of the people of Eastern Canada in the financial condition of our communities, including some of our cities. But even here there are bright spots. I have been following the reports of municipal meetings and school district meetings in the southern part of the province of Alberta during the past few weeks,