

plaining of this at all—are able to obtain their mill feed requirements at a much cheaper rate and consequently a lesser price than the people of British Columbia, although they are much further removed from the wheatfields than we are in British Columbia.

I believe that the time has come, Mr. Speaker, when the whole freight rates structure of this country should be overhauled. The rates were set many years ago when conditions were entirely different from what they are to-day.

I would also point out this in connection with our plea. It seems all right for hundreds of millions of dollars to be spent on canals in eastern provinces for the benefit, it may be, of the wheat farmers, but when we in British Columbia ask for something the reply is: This is not the time to do it. This may not be the proper time to say it, Mr. Speaker, but I am going to say that if ever the St. Lawrence waterway scheme comes into effect I hope something will be done about the tolls on the Panama canal, for our ships leaving Vancouver and New Westminster are now charged approximately \$9,000 a trip to pass through that canal. I hope if the time ever comes when we shall deal with the St. Lawrence waterway that we on the Pacific coast will be remembered and that a quid pro quo will be exacted for the charges that are levied by the United States on our ships passing through the Panama canal, which, as all hon. gentlemen know, is owned by the United States.

This appeal is not a question affecting the maritime provinces or any other group of provinces. It is a question only of equality of rates, a question of justice. I know that some have said that it is just the same old story I am telling, but I think we all remember that in that fine old hymn it is said that the story should be repeated over and over until it is taken in. That is what I am doing, repeating the story until the government do take it in.

This is not a political question and I have endeavoured to keep clear of recriminations or accusations. I have endeavoured to make my plea in as fair a manner as possible. I have not accused any hon. member of doing this, that or the next thing. This is too serious a matter to go into personalities. The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has stated that an equal opportunity will be given to all Canadians. I say to him that as far as we in British Columbia are concerned, we have not had that equal opportunity. Our foreign competitors are able to purchase our grain at a cheaper rate than what we have to pay. In

1930 we had 5,000,000 head of poultry in the province but at the present time we have only some 1,250,000 head. The hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber) knows that this is correct. There are many chicken plants in which thousands of dollars have been invested now lying idle and it is time something was done. I make a most earnest plea to this government to adopt this bill.

Mr. A. E. MUNN (Vancouver North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in support of the bill introduced by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid). The hon. member has been consistently advocating a reduction in the domestic rate to the Pacific coast. As he says, he is not playing politics. I am making a plea to-night on behalf of the people of British Columbia and I am making this plea entirely outside of politics. I ask the Conservative members from British Columbia to get in with us on this fight. They know that the people in the constituencies of Cariboo, Victoria, Nanaimo and the Fraser valley all want this reduction. Our climatic conditions are very favourable to poultry farming. There are many poultry farmers in my riding and if they were able to obtain low grade grain at reasonable rates they would be benefited as would the farmers on the prairies. I should like to direct the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) to this fact: A carload of grain or chicken feed can be delivered in China or Japan at a lesser rate than to any part of British Columbia.

Mr. MANION: That is not true; at the present time we have a special rate for that.

Mr. MUNN: There is an export rate on No. 1 wheat.

Mr. MANION: That is a different thing; my hon. friend said chicken feed.

Mr. MUNN: With the export rate you can ship No. 1 wheat to China and Japan and they will have a cheaper chicken feed than we would have with a lower grade of wheat shipped at the domestic rate.

Mr. MANION: They would not use it as chicken feed.

Mr. MUNN: I was just pointing out what could be done. As I said before, this is not a political question. It is something to which we are entitled and for which we have been fighting for years, this reduction in the domestic rate to the Pacific coast on grain