

In recent times we have learned new truths, "if we go on, we will lose more, and if we stop we will lose all." Something must be done if this nation's prosperity is to be restored. It is a problem not only before hon. members sitting to your right, Mr. Speaker, but surely it is the concern of those who sit to your left. It is a problem not only existing before this country, but before other countries. The economic committee of the League of Nations have expressed their conviction that world conditions will never be improved until agricultural prosperity is restored. Two years ago the Macmillan committee in Great Britain made an investigation with reference to general conditions and reported that until price levels were raised, and until agricultural prosperity was restored, even in the old land, we could not hope for improvement or prosperity. In the old country only ten per cent are engaged in growing food-stuffs, while in Canada fifty per cent are engaged in that occupation.

In the old land they appointed a dairy commission, a hog commission, a fat stock reorganization commission, to find ways and means by which they might give to the United Kingdom some assistance to bring back the prosperity necessary to give the purchasing power required to improve business and to put work in each factory throughout the empire. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the government of this country—and this is merely a suggestion—should appoint a live stock export commission made up of hon. members of this house. It should not be a royal commission, but should be composed of members who have a mandate as the business representatives of the people of Canada. That commission should investigate, survey and explore the outlets in other countries, should investigate our present supply, the regularity and grades of such supply, the continuity of it, and should also arrange so that the statistical bureau of Canada will show to us, as they have never done in the past, statistical references as to the volume of supply expected for high class trade, and so on, so that we can approach the problem with some accuracy as to the grades available for the market. First, we would have to ascertain the continuity of the demand for particular grades which might be guaranteed regular supply.

It is absolutely necessary to revitalize agriculture. I compliment the government upon what it has done; I believe it has taken a step in the right direction. I believe such a commission might well investigate the possibility of utilizing the port of Churchill to transport cattle from western Canada, to the great cattle market of Birkenhead. I believe

[Mr. Rowe.]

the commission might investigate the possibility of establishing feeding stations in eastern Canada. I believe they might also investigate conditions in both the west and the east with a view to freight rate adjustments so that eastern farmers might be encouraged to feed western cattle in transit with the advantage of a through rate, in this respect following the example of the western states.

They might well investigate further the possibility of establishing in the maritime provinces not only feeding stations but killing stations. I know there are some hon. members on this side of the house as well as on the other who do not agree with that, but I say conditions are changing and changing rapidly. We are told that the British housewife to-day does not want the heavy beef, but she wants the fine prime finished beef, and she wants it fresh, so that she can have more hot roasts, and not so many larger cold roasts off frozen beef carcasses from the Argentine.

I should like to refer hon. members to the fact that during the last three years the exports from the Argentine have fallen off by twenty-five per cent, and our exports have increased to nearly five times their former extent. Even though that is small, it is at least an increase and a hope. I believe killing stations might be installed in the maritime provinces so that chilled or almost fresh meats, in ever increasing quantities, in view of our improved transportation facilities, might be supplied through cool Atlantic routes and sold on the counters in London as fresh Canadian beef. These are matters which are absolutely essential. I believe they are of such national concern that they should not wait. I am convinced that the restoration of prosperity in Canada must come after a careful organization and investigation of these better and more stable outlets. After all, mixed farming is the basis of prosperity in this dominion. I know that some hon. members who are wheat growers and who would not have agreed with that view a few years ago will now agree. I believe the time is not far removed when mixed farming will take the place of wheat growing in many wheat growing sections. The time is not far distant when other wheat growing sections will be engaged in supplying the British beef market. I believe that there is another step that the government might take, if I may make another suggestion. I think I have done more prescribing without being called in, as the doctors say, than many other members of this house, but I say this with all respect—it concerns both sides of the house—we are passing through the most