

transferred to, and adopted in Canada without altering and modifying the system to such an extent to suit local conditions, as to rob it of many of its advantages.

Government support and control

There are only two methods by which a scheme such as we are suggesting can be put into practical operation. One is by the DOMINION GOVERNMENT carrying out the work itself and controlling the management. The other is by the Dominion Government assisting in the financing of the undertaking in such a manner that the necessary capital could be readily obtained from outside sources and, in return for such assistance, control the industry, so that the producer would be properly protected, and receive his fair share of the wealth created.

As we think it improbable that the Government will embark in a commercial undertaking of this nature, we have attached to this report, the broad lines upon which we recommend the scheme should be financed, with Government assistance, and operated under Government control.

A Dominion affair

For various reasons, many of which have already been referred to in this report, we have dealt with the DOMINION as a whole, and have not merely considered the needs of the West. We feel that, to look at the matter in a narrow spirit, and suggest measures in a small or tentative way for the benefit of one or two Provinces only would most certainly result in failure—assuming they were adopted. On the other hand if the subject is looked at broadly and comprehensively, if the future of the Dominion is kept in mind, and its agricultural and pastoral needs considered as a whole, we are convinced that the recommendations now put forward, will, if adopted, prove of great and permanent benefit to the whole country.

The reasons for dealing with the Dominion as a whole appear to us overwhelming. An export trade, the basis of the industry, must be continuous, and uniform as regards quality, to be successful. Intermittent supplies, however excellent in quality, can never build up a sound and permanent trade; and only intermittent supplies would be forthcoming under a smaller and less comprehensive scheme than we have suggested. The question of transportation, one of the most difficult problems in this country of immense distances, is alone sufficient to make the affair a Dominion one. If retail depots for the sale of Canadian produce are opened in Great Britain, they should serve as an advertising medium not for one or two Provinces only, but for the resources of the whole Dominion. The assistance of the Dominion Government in financing and controlling the advertising, could not reasonably be expected unless the proposals were for the benefit of the whole country.

Both cattle and hogs

The reasons for dealing with both cattle and hogs, and handling them together at the same establishment are also particularly strong. Most districts which are capable of raising cattle are able to produce hogs, and it is equally necessary to provide a ready market for both. That cannot be done economically if works for handling cattle and developing an export trade in chilled beef are erected independently of pork packing plants. To handle the two businesses separately and on different lines, would mean that the producer would have to take his cattle to one centre for treatment and his hogs to another—unless two distinct establishments happened to be located at the same point—a contingency not only improbable, but fatal to economical working should it occur.