

As far as the Atlantic provinces are concerned, we have been receiving subsidies in this connection for the past 25 years, not necessarily in the manner in which they are now being proposed. These have been of considerable help. Unfortunately, even with this help, the cattle population of the Atlantic provinces—and more particularly of Nova Scotia—has decreased by almost 20 per cent.

That may not be as bad as it sounds, because while the size of the cattle herd has decreased, other things have taken place. For instance, the raising of hogs in Nova Scotia has increased considerably, and the quality has been such within recent years that a large proportion of the hogs going to abattoirs have been of the highest grade. Furthermore, there has been considerable growth in the poultry, egg and chicken industries, and perhaps to a lesser extent in the turkey industry, and all this has had quite an influence on the economy of our province.

In addition, another situation has developed under which our farmers, in conjunction with the provincial government, have been improving their herds.

Not many years ago the farmers had a lot of other than purebred stock, which some referred to as scrub cattle. The farmers have found that to get the best results they must have better stock. It became necessary to cull out those cattle which were not paying and endeavour to raise purebred stock. The farmers of my province are not as well off financially as some of those in other sections of Canada. The first thing they had to do was to sell off some of their so-called cull stock in order to raise money to buy purebred stock.

Those senators who know something about farming realize that a farmer would have to sell from three to five head of ordinary stock in order to buy one purebred animal. If as an alternative, he bought purebred calves at a low price, it would be a couple of years before there would be any return.

I am pleased to say that this change is going ahead now reasonably well. Last week one of the prominent farmers of Nova Scotia told me about what he had been doing on his farm. He had taken it over from his father and had bought additional land to go with it. He cleared out all the old stock which was not purebred and started out with purebred stock. Today he has a herd of 200 purebred Herefords, and he is beginning to operate on a paying basis. He informed me that at the Atlantic Purebred Fair in Halifax last week, and in the year before, he had several cattle

which took first prize. He was also proud of the fact that one of his animals sold at auction at \$14 a pound live weight, and quite a few averaged out at \$8 a pound. So you can see that he is raising high quality cattle. When I asked him a few more questions I learned that most of the cattle they were selling were running in the vicinity of 1,000 pounds. This is a marked change in my province in the last ten years.

The problem always has been, and probably will continue to be, that the cost of bringing feed grain in has been excessive. Even last year, 1964-65, arrangements were being made to bring western feed grain by sea into the Port of Halifax, but they found the elevators were not sufficiently large to store it. As a result, later in the season this western feed grain had to be purchased from storage places in Quebec and Ontario and landed in Nova Scotia at a much higher cost.

As I understand it, the idea of this legislation is to provide the necessary arrangements for storage, so as to have grain available to the farmers at a reasonable price. This has been, and probably will continue to be, quite a serious problem for them.

I referred a few moments ago to the poultry industry. Last summer I visited one of the poultry farms in my constituency. The owner of that farm told me that he was grading at that time between 30,000 and 50,000 eggs a day. Now, he is not the largest producer in the province, but that will give you some idea of what can happen if we can get proper feeds.

This man also informed me that he found it necessary to haul about two truckloads of feed a day over a distance of approximately 40 miles. He said it was difficult but that he was still making a small profit. As has happened, there were times when this feed grain was not available and he had to buy grain where he could at much higher prices.

This bears out the statement that I made that we do need the facilities of this board so that grain will be available when it is needed.

I would suggest that there is another problem developing as to whether or not something can be done so that the farmers in the Province of Nova Scotia, and no doubt elsewhere in the Atlantic provinces, can raise a certain amount of feed grain themselves on their own farms.

In going about the province this summer I was very much encouraged to see that a large acreage had been cultivated and planted to