

that enjoy the benefits derived from a scientific system of long-term loans, with a low rate of interest. In the United States, the Land Bank system has now functioned for seven years, including a period of great inflation, followed by one of drastic liquidation, and no serious weakness has appeared either in its theory or in its practical operation. It is universally agreed that the business of agriculture is entitled to capital on equal terms and at as good a rate of interest as any other manufacturer or corporation, providing the security is as good.

I should like to say to the Acting Minister of Finance that there will be great disappointment in western Canada if the government do not at this session bring down legislation providing for some system of rural credits to meet the situation in the west.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Will the hon. member tell us why the Alberta government does not bring into force the rural credit scheme that is already on the statute books of that province? They have a rural credit scheme there, and so far as I know, it has never been put into force.

Mr. LUCAS: I think the answer is quite obvious. The provincial governments are not able to secure the money that is necessary for a scheme of this kind.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The province of Saskatchewan has put out nine or ten million dollars.

Mr. LUCAS: I think it is generally understood that the Dominion government can provide money much cheaper than any provincial government. The securing of money at a low rate of interest is one of the chief considerations in this matter. Unless we can secure the money at a reasonable rate there is no use in adopting the system, because we would be practically no better off than we are at present.

Mr. WARNER: Is it not a fact that the Alberta government, before taking any further steps in the matter, were waiting to see what the Dominion government was going to do?

Mr. LUCAS: Yes, I think that is correct.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend surely does not mean to say that the province of Alberta cannot borrow money as cheaply under a Progressive government as the province of Saskatchewan can under a Liberal government?

Mr. LUCAS: What rate of interest are the government of Saskatchewan paying for their money?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They are paying five per cent and charging slightly over six. That is my recollection.

Mr. LUCAS: I would like to say to the minister—

Mr. JELLIFF: I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether it is not a fact that the Saskatchewan government have ceased to make further loans to the farmers because they could not get money enough to do it?

Mr. LUCAS: I heard that statement made. I would like to say to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) that I understand the Saskatchewan government are very anxious to come in under the federal scheme.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The reason they are not lending more, if my hon. friend wishes to know, is because there are no investors to put their money into the scheme, and, further, that the money is not coming back as quickly as they would like.

Mr. LUCAS: They are evidently short of money, then. There is another question I would like to deal with, one that I think is of vital importance to Canada, namely, the handling of our grain through our own Canadian channels. I would like to refer hon. gentlemen to the report of the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission presided over by Mr. Justice Turgeon. If they will turn to pages 203 and 204 they will find some information that is worth noting in this connection. I quote:—

The report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce shows that in the crop year 1921-22 the exports of Canada wheat

	Bushels
From New York, Baltimore, Boston and Portland were.. . . .	100,009,466
From Montreal and Quebec.. . . .	28,030,051
From St. John, N.B.. . . . .	6,604,898
Total.. . . . .	134,744,415

So that the comparison between United States and Canadian seaports, in the export of Canadian wheat in that year was 74 per cent and 26 per cent.

In addition to this, several million bushels were shipped by Vancouver and went to Japan and China, or through the Panama canal, to Europe.

In the crop year, 1922-23 (1st September, 1922 to 31st August, 1923) the exports of Canadian wheat were—

	Bushels
To United States.. . . . .	12,936,048
Via United States ports to United Kingdom and elsewhere.. . . .	129,871,095
Exported from Montreal and Quebec.. . . .	57,030,848
Exported from St. John, N.B.. . . . .	12,014,152
Exported from Vancouver.. . . . .	17,829,671

which makes the comparison between United States and Canadian Atlantic seaports 65 per cent and 35 per cent as regards exports overseas.