

one. It will more fully equalize the opportunity for university training throughout the country than would a plan based only on the enrolment at existing universities.

Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt: Honourable senators, I have only a few remarks to make. I was surprised and almost scandalized by what the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) said about the proposed subsidy on the shipment of western feed grains to the eastern provinces.

I have now been in this house for some years, and scarcely a session goes by that we do not debate and pass legislation to subsidize the western farmer. Sometimes we are told the subsidy is required because his crop is too large, and sometimes because it is too small; we have even been asked to grant a subsidy because the farmer was not able to harvest his grain before the snow came. In these various circumstances we have voted millions of dollars to help the farmer in the west.

Let me remind my honourable friends that before the Second World War the eastern provinces were quite able to grow and market their own grain. With the outbreak of the war the Government asked the eastern farmer to concentrate less on the growing of grains and more on the development of cattle and the production of butter, cheese and milk. By way of assistance to the eastern farmer the Government agreed to pay part of the freight on feed grains from western Canada. After the war the farmers in eastern Canada were prepared to return to their former production of grains for feed, but the Government asked them to continue to concentrate on the production of milk and other dairy products. And so today more than 60 per cent of the feed grain from western Canada is used to maintain the dairy industry in the east and thus to provide milk, butter and cheese for the west.

The honourable senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Taylor) explained very clearly a few moments ago the effect of freight rates—and they seem to increase every month—as they apply to agriculture. Freight rates are now so high that it is cheaper to ship grain from Fort William to Germany and certain other places in the world and back to Canada, than it is to ship it from Fort William to Quebec city or Halifax.

I have always believed that the best market for the product of the western farmer is provided by the eastern farmer. Now that we have a committee to study land use in Canada we can of course say to the farmers in the east that their land is suitable for the growing of grain, as it was in the past. Then what

will the western farmer do with his feed grain? Certainly, he cannot feed it all. I believe that the proposal to give assistance in the payment of freight cost on western feed grains is the best policy we can adopt.

On many occasions in the past when our western friends were subsidized because of a good crop or for a poor crop, we never complained; now we hope that they will support us in the proposed assistance for eastern farmers.

Hon. J. Wesley Stambaugh: Honourable senators, I am pleased to be back in Ottawa in time to take part in this debate.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Stambaugh: First, I should like to congratulate our new senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Taylor) upon what he has said tonight about the subsidizing of feed grains. I agree with every word he said.

I am not speaking now as a city dweller, but as a *bona fide* farmer, as one who still grows grain, a considerable part of which is fed to cattle and hogs, and as one whose sons and neighbours carry on a similar farming operation. We in Alberta are not particularly alarmed by what this bill proposes to do by way of freight assistance on western feed grains. We realize the best market available for any of our products is the domestic market, and the eastern farmer is the best domestic market for our feed grains.

We farmers of the west, it is true, have received some apparent subsidies from time to time, and we have been pleased to have our fellows from the Maritimes back us up. Indeed, we are grateful to them for their support in that respect, and I think we should show equal generosity toward them.

Therefore, I must say I am thoroughly in favour of what the bill proposes to do. I do not begrudge the few dollars that are to be put up to maintain the domestic market we have had for western grain. About a year ago Parliament voted some \$31 million to pay for the storage of surplus wheat in Canada. That amount went entirely to the west. Nevertheless, our friends from the Maritimes voted in favour of it, and helped to pay for it, and I think we should act similarly with respect to this item.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators,—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, if the Leader of the Government speaks now he will close the debate on second reading of this bill.