

irrigation schemes are in operation and beet sugar factories have been constructed there are splendid feed lots, because the by-products, such as tops and pulp, make splendid feed for the cattle.

We find that some streams rise in the United States, and flow through Canada back to the United States. Canada has a claim on a share of the water of those streams. Just recently work has been started on a \$15,000,000 scheme, the building of the Spring Coulee reservoir, to impound our share of the water on the St. Mary's and the Milk rivers. There are other projects such as the Bow river development and the William Pierce scheme, and the government has the completion of those schemes in mind. Negotiations are going on between the dominion and the provinces, and we hope that nothing will be allowed to delay the development of irrigation in that country. These structures would be permanent, and would confer great blessings upon the people of this generation and of the generations yet to come.

Help and support for the cattle-raising industry are of great importance. Figures collected and analysed by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture show that the annual net income per farm in 1926 was \$1,020; in the period from 1930 to 1934 it was only \$352; during 1935 to 1939 it was \$542; in 1945 it reached a high of \$1,370, and in the whole period between 1940 and 1945 the average was \$1,238. What is worrying the farm people is that the prices of things they have to buy are going up, and they are fearful of disaster as a consequence. Therefore, one of the suggestions I would make is that irrigation be continued with all possible speed.

I have just one other proposal which I believe is of vital importance to the cattle industry, an industry about which we down here do not hear very much, but which nevertheless is a very important one. At the present time there is an agreement with Britain to take our surplus beef. It has about two years to run. It is a good agreement, because it provides us with a market for processed beef equivalent to about 500,000 cattle a year, whereas at best the United States market when open took only about 193,000. So for the moment this market in Britain is a little better, in two ways: it takes more beef, and it probably takes the lower grade of beef that is being processed. But the cattle raisers are fearful that when the money we have loaned to Great Britain is exhausted their market will be gone, and they are most anxious to get into the United States market at all costs. They fear that the people of Britain will buy their beef and their mutton from other countries,—

from the Argentine, from New Zealand, from Australia. They realize that they cannot compete with those countries where the grazing areas are close to the seaboard and where there is grass all the year around, and that they may be left in a very short time "holding the bag", without a profitable market.

Wherever farm organizations or cattlemen meet they pass resolutions regarding this matter. It is important, because they cannot compete with those other countries, and Britain will likely buy where she can buy much cheaper. The Canadian cattlemen have this to say:

Study has disclosed that under the terms of the recently signed Anglo-Argentina agreement the U.K. is securing beef of our commercial quality for approximately 10 cents per pound. The Argentine rancher or estanciero is receiving approximately \$60.00 for each export steer which will weigh 1,100 pounds and will dress red label, equivalent to about \$5.45 per cwt.

If Canadian cattlemen have to meet a price such as that, they will be ruined. Therefore I wish to make it clear that the government should in some way set machinery in operation to make sure that our live cattle can get into the American market. If a token shipment were made to keep the channels clear, even that would help some. The United States market is only 500 miles from the grazing areas, while Britain is 6,000 miles away, and in years gone by Chicago has proved to be the only profitable market for our surplus cattle. We have ten million cattle in Canada now with a surplus of approximately two million, and the people engaged in the cattle industry feel that they are in a very dangerous position and are anxious that no stone be left unturned to preserve for them an entry into this profitable market.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Do you mean in the United States market?

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: That is correct. They hope to get into the United States market. Experience has shown that that is the profitable market. It is a nearby market and one which will give the best results. The losses are less in shipping to that market.

Canada is a great country, and we are lucky to be living in it. We want to make it an even greater country, a country of a wider distribution of wealth; and assistance along the lines of helping the industries that need it will bring us to that desired position.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to.