

1st Session). They recommended the adoption of the "low-level" plan for water supply and state that in their opinion both of the plans proposed by the Deep Waterways Board appear adequate.

The "low-level" plan contemplated obtaining water supply from Wood Creek and Fish Creek, which are tributaries to Oneida Lake; from Oneida Lake and Oneida River, which are tributaries to Lake Ontario; from Nine-Mile, Oriskany and Sauquoet Creeks, which are tributaries to the Upper Mohawk River; and from the Upper Mohawk River, which flows into the Hudson River.

Hon. W. M. ASELTINE: Honourable members of the Senate, it was not my intention to participate in this debate until yesterday, when I heard the honourable the leader on the other side of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) make reference to mixed farming in Western Canada. I do not pose as an expert, but farming has been a hobby of mine for a number of years—an expensive hobby, perhaps, but nevertheless a very interesting one. Therefore, if I am able now or at any other time to throw any light on the subject or to give any information to honourable members of this assembly, I shall be only too glad to do so.

In rising to address this august assembly I do so with a great deal of trepidation; but the friendly atmosphere which prevails lends courage for the task. As I have nothing of a controversial nature to deal with, I am sure that I shall receive a very patient hearing.

As you may already know, I come from the great west-central wheat-producing plains of the province of Saskatchewan. In that part of the world we not only eat wheat, but think, talk and dream of almost nothing else. Wheat is spoken of on the street corners, in the banks and in the offices, and always the price of wheat is of paramount importance to us in that part of Saskatchewan. As a matter of fact, the whole economic life of the country there depends upon the yield of wheat and the price to be obtained for it in the markets of the world.

While I think of it, I should like to thank the members of the Senate for the very kind and hospitable reception which my friend the honourable senator from Northern Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Horner) and I have received at the hands of this House. We hope to be able to repay your kind hospitality at some time when you visit Saskatchewan. We shall be only too glad to take you all over the country and show you some of the most remarkable wheat-growing pains in the whole world.

I think also that at this time I should congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Hocken) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fauteux) of the

Address, the right honourable the leader of this assembly (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) and the other honourable gentlemen who have spoken during the last few days. The tone of the addresses has been of the highest, and I may say that I have been agreeably surprised to find that there has not been the least sign of political rancour.

Honourable members of this assembly who have not travelled extensively in the western part of Canada are probably unaware of the immensity of that country, and of the fact that in the area of which I am about to speak mixed farming on any large scale is practically an impossibility. The Rosetown district is located one hundred miles southwest of Saskatoon, one hundred miles south of North Battleford, one hundred miles east of the Alberta boundary, and one hundred miles from Swift Current, on the C.P.R. southern main line. To give you some idea of the magnitude of the country, I may tell you that in the several rural municipalities contiguous to Rosetown there are 1,500,000 acres of farm lands. I think I am safe in saying also that at least a million acres are under cultivation, and that approximately 750,000 acres are sown to wheat each year. The reason why this land is not adaptable to mixed farming is simply this: the surface water supply is poor, the water being obtained from deep wells and a dam here and there. The soil is a heavy, very deep clay gumbo with a top surface of what we call loose-top. Now, when this loose-top land is broken up from the sod, the grass is entirely destroyed, and we find it almost impossible to obtain later a good catch of grass, on account of the lack of rainfall. As a result, we are obliged to grow mostly wheat in that area. I will admit that the growing of one crop like wheat is a very risky business. But what are we to do? If the whole of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta went in for mixed farming and produced grain for feeding hogs, cattle, poultry and other live stock, our total products in those lines would be so large that there would not be a market for them anywhere in the world, and the prices would fall to zero.

I have in my hand a copy of an article which appeared as an advertisement of a cold storage company, which advocated the abandonment by the farmers of wheat growing and the substitution of mixed farming. Perhaps it is interesting enough to justify my reading it at this time.

Wheat, it appears, is a seed that is planted and grown to keep the producer broke and the buyer crazy. It is planted in the spring, mortgaged in the summer and lost in the fall. Its quality varies according to the amount of