

culture into various branches—the dairying industry, the work of inspection of the various parts of the country, then the fruit industry—and the amount of work that has been given to the placing before the farmers the desirability of their using and planting the right kind of seed and watching the germination of the seed—all those questions the Government have dealt with, and they have been doing a great deal to educate the farming community all through the country on these various questions. Then again, in the case of the live stock industry, the work done by the Government has all been for the purpose of educating the farmers to carry on a better system. But, notwithstanding all this, unfortunately the agricultural industry has not shown the same amount of progress that we might have expected in this country at the present time as the result of the attention that has been given to pushing the education of the farmer and the farming industry throughout the country. Going into the question, we find that the increase of crops has not been as satisfactory as it should have been. For instance, considerable dairy business was worked up at one time in this country, and a great deal was exported to other countries. Ten years ago we exported \$5,000,000 worth of butter, but since that time this export has steadily decreased until in 1912-13 we imported nearly \$2,000,000 more than we exported. The export of cheese has kept fairly steady in value, about \$20,000,000 a year, yet in the last few years, though cheese has been much higher in value per pound than formerly, the quantity has actually decreased. I regret very much to say that in a large number of cases in other matters relating to agriculture the same condition can be shown; and if we investigate the question of labour, we find that the amount of labour employed by farmers to-day is not as great as it was some years ago. The reason for that apparently is that the country has progressed and the price of farm labour has increased of late years so that the farmer has found that he has not been able to go in for such intensive farming as he formerly did. The result shows that the farmer of to-day is not employing the same amount of labour per hundred acres as he was some years ago. This, of course, does not help to better production in the agricultural industry, and I think that it is a question that this committee and the commission of which my hon. friend is chairman should very carefully consider.

Then again, we come to the question of the market for the farmer. The market to-day is a very important one all through this country. We have the farmers in the Northwest to-day with large quantities of wheat on hand, but on account of the extraordinary conditions in transportation they are unable to get their grain to market, and also they are not able, on account of the conditions under which they are placed, to borrow money on that grain. This ties up the whole situation from the agricultural point of view, and in the same way in British Columbia the question of market is one that is very seriously exercising the minds of the fruit grower and the farmer generally. Had it not been for the fact that the United States Government some two or three years ago took the duty off live stock, it would have been a serious matter for the farmers throughout the Northwest. Hon. gentlemen who come from that part of the country know that it made a very great difference to the farmers throughout the Northwest when they were able to market their live stock south of the line. They sold their sheep and their pigs in places like Chicago and Seattle and other points in practically an open market in competition with the farmers of the United States. Now, this question of markets is one that is very seriously affecting the farmer, and one that ought to be considered carefully by a committee of this kind. Then, another trouble is also affecting the farmer at the present time, and that is the position in many places with regard to banking facilities. The other day we put an Act through this House which to a certain extent may be of assistance to the farmer who is raising live stock, but the whole banking question as it deals with the farming community is a very much wider one than that. We are placed in a position that the farmer, and in this connection it applies not only to the farmer but also to all others who are trying to develop the industries and the resources of this country, that we have for a great many years depended for developing our resources on money that we could obtain from Europe. Now, owing to existing conditions, all this financial assistance is practically cut off, and the only place to which we can look for money is the United States. We should therefore, if it is possible, consider whether it is not feasible in some way to increase the credit facilities, not only for the farmer but