

measure of failure at all. Now there is a small village in the district, with stores and a two-roomed school. There are in that community about three other school districts; and if you were to fly over that country now you could see upwards of a hundred colourful farm homes, surrounded with flower beds and vegetable gardens; you would see livestock and machinery. The whole district is clean and neat; it evidences prosperity and a good community spirit.

Where there is so much sunshine and the land is fertile, all that is required to produce crops of food is moisture. Food is the foundation of the well-being of mankind. It has already been said in this debate that where people are hungry, where food is scarce, there is going to be trouble. Men and women will and should rebel if they are starving. Everywhere in the world more food is needed. The population of the globe is increasing by about 20 millions every year.

Here in Ottawa there is a nutrition division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. It is under the control of Dr. Pett. He and other able specialists have drawn up a dietary showing the food requirements of the Canadian people. To meet those requirements we need more fluid milk, more fruits, more leafy and yellow vegetables; and these are the very products which do best on irrigated land.

In connection with the financing of irrigation districts, it has been shown, not only in Canada but in the United States and elsewhere, that private capital is not available for the major projects; governments must assume some of the initial cost. Part of that cost is not immediately recoverable, though ultimately it will be. In thinking of this matter of finance, I agree with the honourable senator from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner) that we could well spend less on buildings and on the beautification of Ottawa and more on these permanent food-producing schemes in the west—

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Gershaw:**—because of the marvelous results which that expenditure would bring about. One difficulty which has caused considerable delay, is that of getting together the three parties concerned in irrigation. One of the first districts in the West which it was decided to irrigate was the Bow River area. It was chosen because water was available and because the land, being fairly level, could be easily irrigated. This development occurred quite a few years ago. We spent years trying to get the Dominion Government, the provincial government and the private land company to co-operate on a deal, and we absolutely failed. Fortunately the dominion has

now almost completed negotiations to buy out the private owners, and we are hoping that progress will speedily be made.

The Dominion Government has stepped into the irrigation picture in a pretty big way. In the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation organization they have a splendid agency, and they have in a general way taken on the duty of constructing the large reservoirs and connecting canals. The provinces then distribute the water and arrange for settlement. The provinces own the natural resources and have jurisdiction over property and civil rights. All surface waters are vested in the Crown in the right of the province, and are administered by a board under the Water Power Act. The authority and the duties of the bodies may clash, and there is always a possibility of friction. Fortunately, good will exists between the two governments.

In the United States there was considerable friction between the Washington government and the state governments until 1894, when the Carey Act was passed. Under this Act the central government offered the states a million acres of land if they would undertake to irrigate it and sell it to actual home-seekers. When 90 per cent of the land was sold, the management and control of the district was to be turned over to the water users, the actual settlers in the district. This arrangement has worked out very well. It has provided employment and has given home-seekers good homes; it has produced protective foods and has strengthened the agricultural development of the country.

I want to say that the people of the dry areas in the Canadian West appreciate what the Minister of Agriculture and his officers have done, and they particularly appreciate the work done by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation group. It is necessary to hold and to harness all the water that can be obtained from the spring run-off and from rain and snow, and since 1935 the government has provided engineering help for the farmers.

Individual farmers, with the aid of P.F.R.A. money and technical advice, have constructed 31,225 dugouts, 5,062 stock-watering dams, and 1,187 small irrigation projects since 1935. In addition to that they have constructed 144 community pastures by taking poor land out of cultivation. At the present time this land provides pasture for 73,393 head of cattle. Large storage reservoirs are being constructed, and upon the completion of engineering surveys now being made, the irrigated areas will be increased from their present one-half million acres to two million acres.

In closing I want to express the hope that the good will and friendly co-operation which now exists between the dominion and our