

burgeoning of world population we in Canada, although relatively small in population, must all work together to help feed other peoples. We must not expect one part of this country to feed any other part. Agricultural land is too scarce and too valuable to allow it to be wasted because of indifferent cultural practices.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I am a farmer myself, and I have a great deal to learn about modern farming. The honourable senator spoke of community pastures, and I would like some information about them. Are they anything like the commons of ancient times in England, the enclosure of which caused so much social distress in times gone by? I would like to know a little more about what he means by community pastures.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: In the thirties in Saskatchewan, for instance, there were particularly large areas where the land was rather poor and unproductive, and farmers who lived in those areas abandoned the land and went north or elsewhere. Consequently, large blocks of land were left vacant. The odd farmer remained in those areas, but because schools were distant and there were no accessible roads, the Government of Saskatchewan stepped in and bought them out through the Land Utilization Board. Then they fenced the land in, put in wells, or erected dams or dug-outs to supply water. This land is becoming more and more valuable because it can now support more stock per acre than in the past. They say that whereas in the past they could take in 20 head of cattle per farmer, they can now take in 40 head.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: At a price?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, at a price—a rental. I understand there is a great deal of land in Quebec and Nova Scotia in the same position, which should now be used.

Hon. G. Percival Burchill: Honourable senators, I had not intended to say anything in this debate, but after listening with pleasure to the excellent speech from the west, which gave a worthy viewpoint of the west, I would like very much to adjourn the debate.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Burchill, debate adjourned.

CRIMINAL CODE (HATE PROPAGANDA)

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING—
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon.

Mr. Roebuck for the second reading of Bill S-49, to amend the Criminal Code.

Hon. Daniel A. Lang: Honourable senators, with the kind permission of Senator Croll I would like to take the opportunity this afternoon of addressing a few remarks in connection with this bill on hate propaganda, being an act to amend the Criminal Code.

Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to Senator Roebuck for his erudite observations on this bill before the Senate yesterday. As usual, he brought not only mind and thought to the subject matter, but also a very great heart. I think he spoke for all of us when he said how he detested the things against which this bill is directed.

I know that we all, honourable senators, can only laud the objectives of this piece of legislation and we can only give our support to the achievement of what it hopes to eradicate. Yet, frankly, after listening to Senator Roebuck yesterday, and considering the bill myself thereafter, I had to admit that I became more concerned and distressed about what lies behind it. I felt that today I would not be discharging my duty in this chamber if I did not express to all of you some of my concern. I suspect that this concern I feel arises from the fact that I am a lawyer by profession and I recognize the great difficulty any legislature is faced with in attempting to codify and define an offence as nebulous as the one contemplated in this act. I also know that very often by attempts to codify, define and pin down we can create, albeit unwittingly sometimes, an instrument which will perhaps turn against us because we do place in the hands of the state a power which was not readily available to them before. In a country such as ours this is basically of no immediate concern, so we must assume a continuity of the state we now enjoy and know that this legislation will be effective.

I was pleased to hear Senator Roebuck say that this bill will be sent to a joint committee for study. I hope that there it will receive a thorough examination and that all the best minds, not only of the legal profession in both houses but of all Members of Parliament, will be brought to bear on the problems it raises.

First of all, recognizing that this bill is basically a restriction on freedom, I think we have got to ensure that it does not restrict and cannot restrict freedoms that we do not immediately contemplate being effective. Secondly, we must ensure and write into this proposed legislation every safeguard we are capable of putting into it to ensure that we