

when we do not get enough rain; and when we do not get enough rain, we do not get the crops. Some years we shall have 100 or 125 bushels to the acre. Last year we had all the way from nothing to twenty bushels to the acre, which was about the best we had. Perhaps there are a few favoured districts that had a little more than that.

An hon. MEMBER: That is oats.

Mr. CAMPBELL: It is oats I am talking about. That being the case, in the past I have seen oats going out of our district by the carload—many carloads—for as low as five cents a bushel. Of course that is a price which would not begin to give the farmers their cost of production. I do not say that this government should build elevators or that government should build elevators, but I think the farmers themselves should get together and decide whether they want the provincial government or the federal government to do it, whether they want to form a co-operative or whether they want a combination of provincial and federal aid. They would be well advised to start making a study of this proposition of building storage space for their grain. If they do that they will be assured at all times of a bountiful supply of feed. Every stockman knows that to be successful he must be assured of an abundant supply of feed at all times, at reasonable prices. If he buys on a hand-to-mouth basis it means that in a year of short crops he will have to pay high prices. In a year of abundant crops it will work to his advantage, but it will work to the disadvantage of the farmers who grow the grain. I like the idea of more co-operation between the farmers of western Canada and the farmers of the east. If I were to offer advice to the farmers in Quebec and the maritimes, especially, I would suggest that they send more farmers to the House of Commons. Since I have been in this house I have not heard very much about the needs of farmers in Quebec.

To support this idea of a reserve bank for feed, I want to tell a story about one of the most successful stock raisers I know in western Canada. He was a man along in middle years, who came up from the United States. I went to his ranch soon after he got started, and he had granaries full of grain and large stacks of hay. He had one of the finest herds of cattle I have ever seen, and he told me the reason he was so successful was that he always had a bank. He said, "Here is my bank; here is my reserve. I aim to have two years' supply of feed ahead, so that in the event of a dry year I will be able to carry my stock through and finish it". I think that is a good idea, not only for an individual but for a province or a country.

With regard to transportation, it may be that some day we shall have a government—perhaps it may be this government—that will stop paying freight subsidies on this feed grain. I like the idea of having grain stored in ports along the St. Lawrence, and possibly along the great lakes as well, to take advantage of a cheaper means of transportation. Last year I had the privilege of going to the port of Churchill, in northern Manitoba, one of the finest ports in the world. Coarse grains could be loaded on boats there, brought around and up the St. Lawrence and the great lakes, and the grain placed in these storage houses. That could be done in the maritimes as well, with grain being unloaded at Halifax for distribution.

I believe this matter should receive the consideration not only of members of this house but also of the people of eastern Canada. As to operating this storage space, I do not know to what extent co-operatives are built up in these provinces. Both Ontario and Quebec have large numbers of co-operatives, but I do not know whether they would be large enough to handle this business. We in western Canada like co-operation. We like to run our own business as far as possible. I should like to see the people set up their own co-operatives, perhaps with government financial assistance to set them in motion.

(Translation):

Mr. PAUL EDMOND GAGNON (Chicoutimi): The hon. member for Lake St. John-Roberval (Mr. Dion) to whom fell the duty of moving the Address in reply to the speech from the throne has acquitted himself of his task in a most felicitous way. May I extend to him my sincere congratulations and my thanks for having emphasized, among other historical facts concerning our district, the important contribution of Chicoutimi to the development of our natural resources.

Mr. GAUTHIER (Portneuf): Hear, hear.

Mr. GAGNON: Mr. Speaker, there may well be in Canada places more famed and better known than the constituency I am pleased and honoured to represent in this house, but I submit that, nowhere else in this country, is there one more picturesque, more beautiful, and with greater possibilities for economic development. May I add that, apart from its tremendous water-power resources, the kingdom of Saguenay, with Chicoutimi its most precious gem, ranks second in Canada in gross value of industrial products, cost of materials used and power supply needed. We rank third for the number of people employed and the salaries paid by over 400 concerns with a yearly production of \$200 million.