

of 1953, so that the Maritime farmers can remain in the live stock business, and also so that the Maritime provinces will continue to be one of the best domestic markets. If that is done the eastern provinces, instead of buying $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of feed, may be able to buy 5 million tons per year. If freight assistance were abandoned the Maritime provinces would become an even more depressed area than now.

I hope honourable senators will support this vote. I also hope that through the efforts of both eastern and western farmers the Government will adopt freight assistance as a permanent policy in Canada, rather than as a year-to-year policy. I ask this support and co-operation on behalf of all farmers in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and I am confident that we will have the support of the farmers in western Canada. Freight assistance was not introduced merely as a war measure, but because we applied for it year after year from 1926 onward. The Government recognized that in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes there was a balanced agriculture, because we grew so many head of livestock, so much grain, made so much butter and cheese, and raised so many hogs, whereas often in western Canada farming was mainly limited to grain. In order to stabilize the industry in eastern Canada, as well as the rest of Canada, a policy was adopted for a two-fold purpose: first, to assist the farmer in maintaining farm operations and to plan for the future; and, secondly, to provide a market for the coarse grains of western Canada right here in Canada.

Hon. Thomas Reid: Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald). Is it his intention that the bill should receive third reading tonight? I ask that question because I intend to make some rather extended remarks with respect to Vote No. 538, freight assistance on western feed grains. Even if I had not had in mind speaking on this subject, the remarks made this evening by some senators from the prairie provinces would prompt me to raise my voice on behalf of the province of British Columbia. There is a story to be told about this freight rate assistance question, and it is one about which the Prairie provinces should not be proud.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I think we should hear what the senator from New Westminster has to say now.

Hon. Mr. Reid: I am waiting for certain information, which I expect will arrive later tonight or tomorrow morning. I am instructed to place this matter before the

Senate, and I may say it was not dealt with in the other house.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I should like to have this bill receive second reading at least tonight.

Hon. Mr. Reid: If the bill receives second reading tonight, perhaps I will have an opportunity to speak on the motion for third reading tomorrow.

Hon. Calvert C. Pratt: Honourable senators, may I take a few moments to refer to the item in this bill dealing with university grants, a matter of particular interest to my province.

The honourable senator for Kingston (Hon. Mr. Davies) gave us a few days ago a most interesting discourse on the great work the universities in Canada are doing and the need for extending university services throughout wider areas of the country. The call for specialized training which only the higher seats of learning can supply is becoming more demanding all the time. With the view expressed by my honourable friend from Kingston I entirely agree.

I think the arguments brought out here this evening that university grants should be made on the basis of so much per student enrolled at universities would have an adverse effect. I believe it would result in a greater concentration being placed on the bigger universities, and less opportunity and financial help being extended to the smaller and more widely spread institutions.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, it would not have that effect at all.

Hon. Mr. Pratt: In my province of Newfoundland for many years we have had a university college, but our university as such was late in getting started. However, it is now doing excellent work and has a very practical structural program and a well planned extension of its work in the academic field.

Since the creation of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, as our institution is known, a much larger number of our students have taken advantage of university training than ever before. We owe a good deal to the fine service extended to us by the universities in the Maritime provinces, and also in Ontario and Quebec, to which our students from Newfoundland have gone, but the number of those who can take advantage of training in these far-off institutions is very limited. On the other hand, the student of average means can attend our university at home.

I believe the plan of setting up grants based on the provincial population is a good