

The Budget—Mr. Studer

I would suggest that the government give serious consideration to increasing the crop-failure payments in some of the isolated areas where the people are sorely in need of assistance. I am told that at least some of the money that the dominion government puts into the pockets of these people is taken right out again by the Saskatchewan government. Irrespective of that situation, the fact is that some of these people have suffered continual crop failures over the last five years. In some areas there have been two, three or more consecutive crop failures.

When a crop is produced in that area it is a high-protein crop. As everyone knows across the line in Montana if the farmer produces a crop containing more than 16½ per cent protein he gets 15 cents additional for his wheat. The people in that area know of that and they wonder why something could not be done here. In Canada no consideration is given by the wheat board for high protein content and no benefits accrue to these individuals who might otherwise receive them.

When the crop failure plan was brought into operation in 1939 it was provided that a maximum payment of \$500 would be paid for a complete crop failure. Everyone knows that today \$500 will not buy half of what it bought back in 1939. It might be said that these people should move out of this area, but the fact is that there is no place for them to go. They simply want to be placed in the position where they can carry on for another year.

Any money that is paid out by the dominion government in this area will not be wasted, and these people would not want it to be wasted. There has been paid out in the Swift Current area over a period of years a total of \$25 million in the way of assistance. The assessment in those same 16 municipalities totals around \$28 million. But during that same period over \$200 million of new wealth has been produced in that country. It might be said: If that is so, why do they need consideration? The trouble is that this production is only at intervals; it is not spread evenly over the years. There is not the stability there that is present in other parts of the country. We may produce wealth for one, two or even three years, but then there will come a period of years when practically nothing is produced.

Not only our farmers but our businessmen want stability. I have on my desk petitions signed by thousands of people, including the businessmen in the area. They ask for this assistance because they say that is the only way they will be able to continue to carry on. It is not asked for as a gift. We believe it will be an investment because it

will be repaid. There are other countries which have taken much longer than ours to rehabilitate themselves and put themselves in a position where some stability exists. The expenditures we have made under P.F.R.A. have been made wisely. Over 40,000 dams and dugouts have been built and are being used for irrigation purposes. We talk about the south Saskatchewan and the St. Mary river and the innumerable other projects that are being carried on, but we must not forget what is being done on little farms here and there in the way of small dams and dugouts.

These holes are dug in the ground in order to catch the water that runs off when the snow begins to melt in the spring. Dams are placed across the coulee so that the water from the melting snow is caught in the spring. That water is used for irrigation purposes by means of a pipe running out from the bottom or by pumping the water out over the dam. Over 75 community pastures have been set up in order that this section may have areas of reserve grass which can be used during the dry years.

Part of the money is being used for scientific research. Men with the necessary knowledge are investigating the possibilities of growing different types of grasses and crossing various native grasses, even the sagebrush. Efforts are being made to find different grasses that can be grown in that country. Then contour method of farming is being advocated. This is really ring-around-a-rosy farming instead of going straight up and down so that the water may be caught and not permitted to run off in the springtime.

This all takes time. I can assure the house that this money will be well spent and it will be repaid in full. We would not accept it as a gift. We will return it to you, not only as money but in the form of assured permanency. After listening to what we heard today about hungry people in all parts of the world we must realize that the day is coming when every acre on earth must produce to the full. That is necessary if we are going to have any stability on this earth of ours. Hunger creates unrest and the extermination of other peoples.

Canada stands unique among the nations of the world. We are able to maintain a high standard of living because of our ability to produce such tremendous crops of grain and other products and have such quantities available for export. Our duty is to produce food to take care of as many people in the world as we possibly can.

Therein lies security for Canada. Millions and billions of people in the world are not going to stand idly by and see countries like the United States and Canada continue with