

country. There has been a considerable amount of criticism in the West regarding the manner in which the question of food control has been dealt with. The people probably do not realize the difficulties under which the Government are labouring, particularly those of the transportation problem. The honourable leader of the Government will, however, remember that the people were encouraged last year to increase the production of foodstuffs. The result was that in the province from which I come a large quantity of potatoes and other vegetables and farm products of a perishable nature was raised. The evaporator plants on the coast have been filled to their capacity, and at the present moment there are large supplies of roots and other vegetables in the hands of the farmers, with no demand for them. The evaporator plants are not in a position to make any financial arrangements with the farmers, because they have reached the limit of their credit, and there seems to be no chance for them to sell their products. I have met with many people who say that the situation offers no encouragement to them to make a similar effort this year. That situation may be peculiar to my particular part of the country, and I presume it may have been to some extent brought about by the transportation difficulty. Probably no one but a member of the Government can know or realize what the transportation question means at the present time, or the difficulties of finding means to send produce to the places where it is required in Europe; but I think that this question should be investigated, and the farmers should receive instructions, so that they may know just what is best for them to grow during the coming season. Since all grain crops can be saved and stored very much more satisfactorily than anything in the line of vegetables or roots, the farmers, I think, should be instructed to devote all their power and attention to grain crops. The Government can doubtless provide means of storing grain very much better and more cheaply, should it be necessary to do so, than they could crops like potatoes, which last only a short time and are very liable to go to waste.

Similarly with regard to the campaign that was carried on in the West for the raising of pigs. We have seen statistics indicating that there is in the world today a shortage of about 35,000,000 pigs, but if the transportation difficulty enters again into this question, persons who begin now to raise a large number of pigs may find that when those pigs are ready for the

market there will be practically no market for them, because the allied buyers, who, I presume, arrange for the sending forward of all food supplies, are not in a position to ship the animals. If men who have raised a large number of these animals find no means of disposing of them when they are ready for the market, a great deal of trouble will be caused. We had some experience of it in the West in the early stages of the war. Conditions arose in which there was only, apparently, a limited demand for this class of animal, and I have been told by men engaged in hog-raising that they actually went so far as to shoot the animals because they had not enough feed for them and did not propose to keep them, not knowing whether they could find a market later or not. When a large number of persons rush into the raising of hogs, as there is a danger they may do, without properly considering the whole question, the result is loss and disappointment and discontent throughout the country, and I think the Food Controller would be well advised to issue instructions which would be at any rate a guidance to persons engaging in the industry.

The Address refers to the commercial, industrial and financial stability of Canada at the present time. We are all glad to know that the condition of the country is so good, and I think that the Minister of Finance is to be congratulated on the successful flotation of the Victory Loan which he negotiated during the parliamentary recess. That loan was well taken up. The people of the country came forward and subscribed to it in a way that showed they were behind the Government in that matter, and were anxious to do all that they could to assist in finding the money required for carrying on the affairs of the country. But in dealing with this question the Government is calling upon the people to conserve their wealth and to invest their money in Government loans, and the Government has undertaken to arrange for the financing of certain shipbuilding industries in this Dominion. As I understand, the money required by the Imperial Munitions Board for the carrying on of the shipbuilding industry is supplied by the Government, and consequently we are responsible for finding all that money at the present moment. The people naturally ask themselves: if they individually are to be careful and save all the money they can, why the work that is being done by the Munitions Board should be done in the extravagant