

with the uncertainties of farming in Western Canada. If you are blessed with rain at the right season you will get a good crop; if not, you will get a bad one. This year in eastern Saskatchewan there is a good crop; in western Saskatchewan, no crop at all. Eastern Saskatchewan got rain; western Saskatchewan got none. There are of course certain local exceptions, but generally that is the condition. I submit that whatever government may be in power it should lay down a long term policy for the primary producers of this country.

Take the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces. During the years prior to the war I met men and women from those provinces, and they told me that the mere pittance the fishermen got was simply appalling. I have the same feeling for those fishermen as I have for our farmers in Western Canada. This is not a political issue, it is an economic and business question. If we want to make Canada great we must all help to solve this problem.

Then take hog production. Alberta has just half the production of hogs that it had a year ago. Manitoba is not quite that bad, but its production is very low. This undesirable condition is in my judgment due largely to a mistaken policy in regard to grain. The Government put a certain price on hogs and on grain. Then they allowed hog producers in Ontario a preference. The result was that if a Western farmer fed his barley to his hogs he lost the extra fifteen cents a bushel he would have got had he sold his grain. I think hog production during August was about 50,000, as against a requirement of 100,000 a week. All this comes under the problem of primary production. This problem must be solved on a long term basis so our farmers will know what conditions they will have to meet. At the present time our young men and women are leaving the farms and drifting to the cities. That is not good for the country. They would stay on the land if they thought there was any hope of making a reasonable living.

I have touched on these problems in the hope that honourable members will assist in their solution. I wish to thank you for listening to me so patiently. I feel under some restraint this afternoon. When sitting in this House as a private member I always gave expression to my own thoughts. If in anything I have said I have trod on the corns of some of our supporters, in this House or outside, I would ask them to charge it up to my ignorance or lack of political acumen, since I want, as I am sure we all want, to help make Canada the country our men fought for.

47704—4

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robertson the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned and being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

An Act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and demobilization.

An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1946.

The house of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Thursday, September 13, 1945.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES MOTION TO APPOINT

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, I beg to move:

That the Senators mentioned in the report of the Committee of Selection as having been chosen to serve on the several standing committees during the present session be and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute the several committees with which their respective names appear in said report, to inquire into and report upon such matters as may be referred to them from time to time, and that the Committee on Standing Orders be authorized to send for persons, papers and records whenever required; and also that the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts have power, without special reference by the Senate, to consider any matter affecting the internal economy of the Senate, as to which the Honourable the Speaker is not called upon to act by the Civil Service Act, and such committee shall report the result of such consideration to the Senate for action.