

house to the situation with regard to the production of live stock there. British Columbia is a very large importer of live stock products. At the present time we produce about 50 per cent of the amount of beef that we consume in British Columbia, and that notwithstanding the fact that in the central area, which I represent, we have the largest stock producing range area in the Dominion of Canada. With regard to hogs, you do not have to go to London to find a market for Peace River hogs, because British Columbia raises only ten per cent of the hogs she consumes. A similar situation exists as to butter; there are immense possibilities for the production of butter in the Peace River country. British Columbia consumes 20,000,000 pounds of butter a year, and we are actually producing at the present time about 5,000,000 pounds. So there are enormous opportunities for agricultural expansion apart from the production of wheat. By the way, in referring to the Peace River country I am speaking of the British Columbia area. The hon. member for Peace River is better qualified to speak of the Alberta area than I am, and perhaps is as well qualified as I am to talk about the Peace River area in British Columbia, because he lives closer to it and comes in contact with it oftener than I do.

With regard to the production of hogs, I want to submit a clipping from the Peace River Block News, the only paper published in the British Columbia area of the Peace River country. Let me say first that I have seen these hogs being shipped. I want the house to understand that the Peace River country is a new country, and there are very few diseases amongst the live stock in there. The stock that has been brought in has been well and carefully selected; it is well bred and well fed. I never looked at a prettier line of hogs than I have seen coming out of that country, and I am sure you would find they grade very high in Edmonton. Here is the latest information I have with regard to hogs produced in that country, taken from the Peace River Block News, published in Dawson Creek, the issue of February 7 of this year:

On January 30, the day the Peace River hogs were sold, \$8.85 was paid for bacons. Dawson Creek Cooperative Live Stock shipping association shipped out 123 hogs which averaged \$16.10 per hog net.

Then it goes on to say:

The Peace River district shipped 1,756 hogs on this train which sold for about \$25,000 or an average of roughly \$14.25 gross.

[Mr. J. A. Fraser.]

That is in Edmonton. Then it goes on:

In December, bacons were selling at \$4.75 on the Edmonton yards so that the last shipment realized over double as much as a month previously. When the price of \$2.75 paid 13 months ago is compared with returns of January 30, 1934, the benefit of the British quota is still more apparent. The price paid 13 months ago for a 220 pound bacon hog was \$2.75 per one hundred pounds, less 80 cents per hundred pounds freight and commission which would net the shipper \$4.38. The same hog at \$8.85 would give \$17.71.

Note the difference in price, just four times as much as it was a year ago. I submit that there will be a tremendous expansion of all branches of the live stock industry as soon as proper railway facilities are provided for this country. Not only that, but that industry will afford a splendid market for the grain that grows so luxuriantly there. In the Peace River country they do not consider they have had a crop of wheat at all unless it averages forty bushels to the acre, and of oats 125 bushels to the acre is not uncommon. They have plenty of feed; the country is healthy and with proper care can be kept healthy; the stock that is in there at the present time is of first-class quality, and I have no doubt that the people in there who are raising live stock are intelligent enough to see that diseases are kept out. Let the members of this house never forget that they should not confine their thoughts to wheat when thinking about the development of the Peace River country.

There are other things besides live stock along the route of the proposed railway—and let me say that I never talk about the Obed route; there must have been something wrong with the engineers when they indicated that as a proper route by which to tap the Peace River country. I have always believed that the Peace River country should be opened up only along the Peace river itself.

The house should not overlook the fact that in the valley of the Peace river there are almost unlimited quantities of timber awaiting some means of transportation.

In the area will be found all the water power necessary for the manufacture of the timber.

But in my opinion wheat and live stock and forestry are comparatively only side issues in the development of the Peace River country. Coming as I do from a district which is vitally interested in the development of the mining industry, I consider that the mining possibilities of the Peace River country offer magnificent opportunities for the investment of money and the employment of labour.