

reflected in the general conditions of the province. Construction in some of the newer places has ceased, and in the cities and towns on the Prairies, and in some of the villages, there is a great deal of unemployment, and public relief stations have been established, and I fear the end is not yet.

Fortunately there were average crops in certain areas in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but I could take you over an area extending from thirty miles north of Moose Jaw to the American boundary, and extending perhaps a hundred miles east and west, where there was an almost complete failure. This condition must be reflected in the trade of the country. It has been very disastrous to the farmers, and has had its effect on the earnings of the railways, and on bank clearings, as well as other forms of business activity. Although the railways sometimes say that they are quite independent of the farmer and the earnings on the grain hauled—and we admit that the rate is very favourable—still their whole equipment is designed and prepared for the hauling of the grain. At the present time that equipment is lying idle and great numbers of men have been laid off, particularly by the C.P.R.; to which no man can object, because the work is not there to be done. Thus there is brought about a very deplorable condition.

Some people say that the Pool is largely responsible. I am not a member of the Pool, nor am I speaking on its behalf here, but in my opinion it is doing much to develop co-ordination and co-operation among the farmers of the West. It may be that the Pool did not have the power in the world markets that it was hoped it would have. Orderly marketing is a proper slogan for the Pool, but it may be that its members have been unwise. I am not criticizing them at all, but they may have overheld in their eagerness to reap a higher price in the world market than was warranted; and no doubt they have been met by the opposition of those who wished to put them out of business. My observation of the Pool is that it has developed a spirit of satisfaction that did not exist before in many parts of the West. As a westerner I should be extremely sorry to think that the farmers were exploiting the idea that the hand of the manufacturer, the industrialist, the financier—the hand of everyone was against them. I do not believe that is so. I think we all prosper or sink together. I think the success of the farming industry is linked up closely with the industrial life of Canada. Their interests have grown too large, there is too much money at stake, they produce too large a volume of

produce for shipment, for any company or bank or financial institution in Canada to overlook them as a material and important factor in the production of wealth in this country. Mr. Crerar's name is connected with a rival concern. I am not criticizing that. So far as I know, it is doing its work admirably. It is simply a company of farmers and landowners in the West organized to enable them to sell their grain wherever they wish, and because I own a small tract of land I am a member of Mr. Crerar's company. As you know, in the Pool you are obligated under your contract for five years to sell it all your grain and not bootleg any elsewhere. That is an entirely different form of contract. I do believe the Pool has moderated the opinion of people in the West that the people of the East are trying to exploit them. I do not think the East has any such object in view, and I think the Pool, with its opportunity for propaganda and instruction, has a peculiarly good chance of getting acquainted with the general trend of business throughout Canada, and that the individual farmer is very much more amenable to a proper and honest presentation of the case of the industrialists and financiers than he has been heretofore.

The farmers have had an unprosperous year, and I do not think we are helping them as much as we could. The New Zealand Treaty was a death blow to the dairy interests of this country. When an honourable senator who is not present to-day called some of us together for the purpose of discussing the Australian Treaty after it had come over to this House, we foresaw that competition with New Zealand—not Australia, particularly—could not be maintained by this country on an equal basis. I have never had a great dread of competition from Australia in butter. While on a visit to that Dominion I found that the rainfall over a great portion of the country is as light as it is over all Western Canada. But the situation in New Zealand is different. That is a small, compact island, practically all the interior being within about one hundred miles of the seashore; the climate is so admirably suited for the raising of cattle and the carrying on of the dairy industry that I doubt whether it is excelled for these purposes anywhere in the world, even in Denmark. When I saw the great natural advantages the New Zealanders possessed in these respects over Canada, I realized that they were going to be very keen competitors of ours. I will tell honourable members something I have not mentioned before, that when the treaty was being considered in a group, of which I was a member, we seriously