

Maritime provinces we can improve the economy of our region by increasing livestock production. It would be a great benefit to both consumers and producers if our meats were sold by grade. To this end all should work together to establish a modern abattoir where meats can be properly dressed and graded by federal officials. This would encourage greater production, because the producers of good quality meats would receive a fair price, while the consumers could buy the grade they wished and be assured of clean edible products. There would seem to be the necessary knowledge of the benefits of selling only graded meats that was lacking when many years ago a contract was signed with a first-class abattoir company from Montreal to establish an up-to-date abattoir in Halifax. At that time the effort failed because it was not possible to reach an agreement with the city. I understand that what is now holding up this venture at Halifax is the fact that, although the farmers got together and by their co-operation raised a considerable amount of money, they still require very much more. There is hope that the provincial Government will advance this money to them. I know that, so far as the city is concerned, arrangements have been made to provide a lot. They have done their part, and it is to be hoped that some means can be found to secure all the money which is needed. I take it that probably the Government will respond if it can be sure that there is product in sufficient volume to make the business venture a success, and also that there will be a capable foreman to look after the plan. If these conditions cannot be met it might be well not to lose any further time but to try to induce a good abattoir company to go in, for there are certain advantages in having an established abattoir company do this kind of work. They have the know-how and can switch products from one factory to the other so as to make the enterprise pay.

At this point I should like to mention another little industry which could be established at Halifax for the benefit of the farmers and the people generally in that area, and that is an up-to-date flour mill, established on the seaboard, where the elevator facilities could be used. Some years ago, just before the Second Great War, a scheme of this kind was pretty well under way. We interested a really first-class miller—one of the finest gentlemen I ever had the pleasure to meet—from Midland, Ontario, and he expected to be able to serve his customers on the Atlantic and New England seaboard and also to look after his trade with Britain and other European countries. I cannot see why a business of that kind cannot be established in the near future

and made successful. At that time we hoped to bring in our grain from Churchill by tramp steamer at a saving of about two and a half dollars a ton, which economy could be passed on to the farmers, making it possible for them to get cheaper feed grain for their livestock. Some of these projects are not easily realized, but with enthusiasm and energetic drive much can be accomplished.

It would seem that more could be done in the eastern provinces by making certain phases of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act work for our farmers in erosion, flood, and drainage control. An example would be to adapt and apply provisions of the P.F.R.A. to the straightening and deepening of certain fresh water courses where it is necessary to prevent further flooding and erosion. I know that many of our farmers are already greatly benefiting from the improvement of tidal water control brought about by the very satisfactory work of those engaged in marshland reclamation. Possibly many more could be interested through soil improvement associations to further increase the production of meats, especially for our Maritime market. In the east our problem is to get our water drained from our farmlands and to keep the tide waters out; whereas in the Canadian west the problem is to convey, through irrigation, water into the drier farm lands.

Some of our forest products associations have done very important work for themselves in building a successful industry for the future and improving the quality of their products; and in many areas, with the co-operation of the farmers they can accomplish much for a successful agriculture in restoring or in keeping a tree coverage of non-arable lands.

Our fruit growers would very much appreciate any assistance that can be given in developing larger markets abroad. Before the Second World War over 80 per cent of our marketable apples from the Cornwallis-Annapolis Valley were sold to Britain. In recent years this former main market for our fruit has been supplied by an increase in their own production, and what further supplies were needed have been largely secured from sterling areas. There is one important aid which could be given our fruit growers this fall, and that is for the federal and provincial Governments to offer to cooperate with orchardists in reviving a policy of offering bonuses to help in finishing the job of removing old trees and those of unprofitable varieties. If this could be done it would place the fruit growers in a sounder economic position, as it would reduce the quantity of inferior product and assist in the control of orchard pests.