

APPENDIX No. 3

investigation of a great many farms, and by comparing the methods practised by farmers who have been successful and who have been able to meet their interest payments, and in a great many cases, their principal payments, with those who are not able to do so. In this connection, I want to place before the Committee—

Q. In this connection did you find that the standard of living of those farmers of whom you complain, those farmers who did not meet their obligations, was greater than it should be?—A. No, I would not say so.

Q. Or greater than that of those living in the city?—A. I would not say so. In a great many cases, the standard of living was not up to what I would like to have seen it. Getting back to the Hanna district, there is a rather acute situation existing there, around Sibbald, Hanna, and through there; and I wish to place before the Committee a concrete case of what has been accomplished by one man who has demonstrated that the land in their district can be successfully worked, and satisfactory results obtained. He has been farming for eleven consecutive years. I refer to Mr. R. K. Bohanan, who cultivates quite a large block of land close to the town of Sibbald, in northeastern Alberta, not very far from Hanna. It is practically on the fringe of what is known as the Hanna district in northeastern Alberta.

By Mr. Gardiner:

Q. Central Alberta?—A. Central eastern Alberta. This man has been farming the same land for eleven years, and he has never had a crop failure, entirely due to the method in which he handles his land. I have here a letter from the postmaster of Hanna, W. C. Stirling. I wrote him for some information regarding this man, and he writes me as follows:—

“Mr. G. A. Robinson of the Calgary office”—

I may say that Mr. Stirling is the local agent of the Mutual Life, and Mr. Robinson is our district manager at Calgary. (Reads).

“Mr. G. A. Robinson of the Calgary office asked me to write to you further particulars of the Bohanan farm and the financial status of the owner.

“I know Mr. Bohanan quite well, and have absolute confidence in his word and he has told me that he has his 800 acres of land all clear, of which he cultivates 400 acres, 200 each year on summer fallow.

“He has a good outfit of machinery and plenty of horses and cattle, and does not owe a dollar to anyone, and besides has sold a good deal of stock on time so that he has plenty of notes, in his favour.

“He has one son interested with him in the 800 acres, I think that half a section is in the son's name, but no mortgages.

“Another son is a Professor in a college in Iowa, having made considerable money on Alberta land in the good years, he owns land beside his father, and rents it out, but he is not now farming by the same method as his father, and last year he only got an average of 15 bushels on his best land, while his father got 25, and 33 on a ten-acre registered seed patch.”

In this connection, I desire to call the attention of the Committee to a report in the Hanna Herald of December 7, 1922. Mr. Stirling became acquainted with Bohanan, went to his farm and investigated his methods, and found that year after year Mr. Bohanan had good crops when practically nobody else in that district had good crops. He got Mr. Bohanan to go to Hanna and address the Board of Trade. They had a large gathering of farmers, and

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman,]