

Mr. SALES: There is one.

The WITNESS: The Province of Saskatchewan has had an instance of what I mean in the operation of the Provincial Mortgage Loan Board. I think I can just say, speaking off hand—perhaps I should not go on record in connection with this—

The CHAIRMAN: If you have the facts there is no reason why you should not say anything you wish.

The WITNESS: I am speaking from memory, from a speech that the Hon. Mr. Dunning made, when he complained very bitterly of the action of the farmers who had borrowed money from the Government, and he complained that they did not seem to have a proper sense of responsibility, and their Loan Board made the poorest showing in collections of any loan organization in the Province of Saskatchewan. If my memory serves me right, in 1921 they only got in 28 per cent of their collections. In 1922 they only got in 42 per cent of their collections. We have collected over 80 per cent, and relatively, when you take into consideration the long period of years we have been lending, since 1903 in Saskatchewan, the number of foreclosures made by the Farm Loan Board of Saskatchewan are relatively very much greater in proportion than the foreclosures we have made. And the same thing applies, I think you would find if you made a careful investigation of the Province of Manitoba, to the way in which their rural credits have been administered there. I do not think it has been a very happy scheme at all. It may be that that is due to some extent to the fact that they were caught at a time—they just got nicely started when the deflation set in, but as far as the Manitoba rural credits are concerned, I think the way it has been administered, and the way the funds have been spread around, it has not been at all in the interest of the farmers. That is regarding the Province of Manitoba. One reason why I think our experience in the Province of Manitoba is unfortunate is by reason of the moratorium which is still in existence. The farmer feels safe with the moratorium, and there are more farmers in Manitoba going to be put out of business by reason of that, because they said it protected them, and they did not have to worry, and they spent their money instead of applying it to their mortgage indebtedness, and simply went broke. Then on top of that they borrowed amounts through the rural credits, and that is gone, and now they find themselves very much more involved than they would have been if it had not been for that moratorium. That is why I say the Alberta farmer is in better shape than the Manitoba farmer.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. In other words, state aid may be rather more a pain than a blessing.

—A. It gets down to this, after all, that Providence helps those who help themselves, and the more we realize that and the more we lean on our own grit and determination to fight the thing through, the better results we are going to achieve. It gets down to this, with all due respect to the western men, I think your farmers have suffered to some extent, through spoon feeding.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Now, would you not just develop that theme and apply it, with all your eloquence, to the manufacturing interests of this country.—A. What do you mean by that?

Q. I mean, if there is one interest which has looked to the Government to make economic conditions in this country profitable for its operations, it has been the manufacturing interests of this country, ever since 1878.—A.

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman.]