

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Have you any idea what those men do when they return to the United States?

Mr. MAHARG: I cannot say I am sure. Many of them have taken their outfits with them. Some of them have gone to British Columbia, some of them have moved back to northern Ontario, many of them have gone back across the border, but they are moving away from the West.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I am interested in the remarks of Mr. Maharg, in regard to their moving out. We have quite a large number who have come into British Columbia and have settled in Okanagan valley, in Vancouver island, and other parts, and we also have a very large number in the city of Vancouver and the other cities. I wish to say this to the committee in justice to these individuals, that they come there very well provided for, in fact to retire; not driven out of the country. I think my friend Mr. Maharg has given a somewhat stretched opinion of these people. We have literally dozens of them in British Columbia who have left the prairie and they are doing very, very well. Some of our best citizens are from the prairie. It may be interesting to the committee to get this fact. Last winter the Vancouver Board of Trade gave a reception to visitors from the prairie and our city alone had two receptions. It had to be divided into two because the number was so great. There were thirty-three hundred men besides women and their families, not this present winter, a year ago, visiting in our city from the prairie and spending the winter there. Now, that is something we appreciate very highly. I wanted to ask Mr. Maharg two questions.

Mr. MAHARG: Let me reply to your statement, first will you, if you please, then we will take the questions. It is very true that many of our settlers have moved to British Columbia, quite true, but that is in the past years. I venture to say there are very, very few who have moved to British Columbia that have gained their competence there that you speak of in the last two years. Many years ago they moved and I might say for the information of the gentlemen that we had many settlers who moved from our own district eight or ten or twelve years ago who were glad to come back and purchase the old farm again.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: We had some this year returned to the prairies, returned to take up their farming again because of a lot of hard times we have been suffering in British Columbia during the last eighteen months. I was going to put two questions if Mr. Maharg will permit me. First I gather from his address, which I have listened to with a great deal of interest that the opinion he expresses and in this he feels he has expressed practically the unanimous opinion of the Prairie Provinces, that the Wheat Board, the re-establishment of it is essential to the prosperity of the farmers of the prairie. I ask him if that is the correct interpretation of his views.

Mr. MAHARG: To a certain extent. I don't think that any one would claim that the Wheat Board itself would immediately bring prosperity but the condition of the farmers is such that unless the Wheat Board and any other measure that we can secure are brought into effect that there will be no returns for the farmers. They will be operating at a loss as they have been operating during the past two years.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: The reason you are asking for it—and I am doing this in order to accept your views. I don't wish or desire to disturb you at all—that the establishment of the Wheat Board is asked for, shall I say in the interest of the prairie farmer, and the second point that the nation as a whole ought therefore to grant it as a whole because of the fact that it is necessary for the prosperity of this very large and important section of our population. That is the second question.

Mr. MAHARG: In regard to the first question I would say yes, that it is in the interest of the farmers of the west. The second, as to the interests of all of Canada, I would say yes, I think it is. I think it is. You got some figures yesterday,

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]