

Consequently, there is conflict of interest between the western agricultural lands and the eastern agricultural lands.

Again, there are the western grain producers versus the western beef cattle producers. There are many farmers in western Canada who produce nothing but grain, and all they are anxious about is to get markets and to get rid of this grain. On the other hand, there are stock producers in the west, and these are growing very rapidly, who are looking for feed themselves. They see that the setting up of this freight rate assistance and storage assistance in eastern Canada puts them in direct competition with the stock producers in eastern Canada, and in British Columbia, who, in a sense, are closer to the market than they are in western Canada, and they are hurt by such competition.

Consequently, one sees a number of problems in this bill that will have to be rectified as time goes along, and I hope that the Government will take that into account when they appoint this agency and that they will look into this matter.

The cost of feed in the years gone by has gone up and down in relation to whether grain has been scarce or plentiful.

There was apparently no stability in the program that was originated during the war. The small farmer was particularly vulnerable to this type of marketing and supply. My colleague Senator Blois gave a good report on the raising of stock in Nova Scotia. He did a good job on his report, and I would agree with him on it. Yet it is well known that there is a tremendous shortage of beef, pork and other meats in the Maritime provinces. So that actually he was just giving you a rough outline of what is happening to certain small areas and not to the whole of the province. It is hoped that with stability of price and supply of coarse grains, you will be able to build up a greater population of beef cattle and hogs.

After some long delay, the Government has finally brought in this bill C-218. The resolution was placed on the Order Paper in April 5 of this year, introduced into the house on June 30 and finally passed on October 21. We are now at the 10th day of November, and it should be passed very shortly.

I would say: first, support this bill wholeheartedly, if it means more and cheaper meat for the consumer in those have-not areas; second, support it wholeheartedly, if it means better living for the eastern farmer and the farmer in British Columbia; third, support it

if it means a definite move to increase production on farms; and fourth, if it means more and better use of lands.

In checking through the ARDA catalogue for 1965-66, which sets out the projects to be undertaken jointly by the provincial and federal governments during that period of 1965-66, I was amazed to find that in the projects to be undertaken in the Maritimes and in Quebec there was very little provision allowed for the establishment of community pastures. There was only a total of 2,724 acres. Of course in Nova Scotia approximately \$3,332,000 is being spent to build what you might call viable farms. This lack of effort to build community pastures does not seem to indicate—at least not to me—any determined effort to increase beef production in eastern Canada.

The advantages in this bill are a steady supply of feed grains and a stable price. These are the two most important features of the bill.

I hope the farmers in eastern Canada are going to make full use of this measure of assistance. If in the result we get only a continued reduction of farm lands and a continued reduction of beef cattle production, then our efforts will have been wasted.

In this regard I would like to refer to a report brought out by the Department of Finance. This report gives some indication of what is happening in the various provinces. This is the Annual Report of Farm Improvement Loans Act, 1965. I might say that I referred to the same report for 1964 and found it to be roughly the same as this one.

Referring to loans taken from the Government to purchase livestock, by provinces, the report shows:

British Columbia	370
Alberta	2,886
Saskatchewan	1,627
Manitoba	972
Ontario	1,598
Quebec	245
New Brunswick	23
Nova Scotia	67
Prince Edward Island	83

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Those figures are all in thousands of dollars, are they?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No. Those are the number of loans applied for.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): In thousands?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would say they are the number of loans.