

Mr. VALLANCE: I think the Cooperative Live Stock Producers will feel grateful for the \$25,000 to be expended for this purpose. I have had the privilege on more than one occasion to be present with the president and secretary of the live stock producers organization, and I happen to be a member and know something about the organization. I think the investigation will result in bringing out everything that needs to be brought out. But there are 50,000 members in the live stock producers cooperative and unless in the very near future we can get from the government what we asked for this year I cannot see that this \$25,000 will be of any great value to us.

Mr. BENNETT: Are all the cooperative enterprises in the west?

Mr. VALLANCE: We have forty-three in the western provinces, and the others are distributed over the eastern provinces.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The minister can spend money to no better purpose than in investigating the marketing of live stock and live stock products at the present time. I hope he will expedite his investigation and carry out whatever recommendations may be made.

Mr. BENNETT: What is wanted to save the live stock industry is action, not inquiry. During the last few years the industry has steadily deteriorated with extreme loss to those who formerly found it a lucrative business. Part of this deterioration is attributable to the New Zealand treaty, with the consequent loss of milch cows in this country, a corresponding failure to produce cattle here, followed necessarily by the constantly increasing importations of meat that are to be found in the trade and commerce returns of this country every month for the last year and a half. Until the government takes action the live stock industry will continue to languish. It is one of the most important industries that you can have in the western provinces. I am not a practical live stock man, but I have read enough to know that of all the interests in an agricultural country that should be assisted and maintained by the government live stock is the first. I do think this government has failed to realize the magnitude of the loss suffered and the far-reaching consequences of its failure. What is more, this industry cannot be built up in one year or two, and if my friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) with the best intentions in the world were to start to-day with all the machinery of government behind him it would be two years, if not three, before any

[Mr. Motherwell.]

appreciable advance in this industry would be observable. I repeat, this condition has been brought about by wrong policies pursued by the government and their failure to realize the importance to this country of immediate action being taken to resuscitate the live stock industry. I say it with conviction, from a study of the trade returns, and from discussions with friends of mine all over western Canada. Their one complaint is: Here is a great industry that has been allowed to fall into a condition that is ruinous to Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: Demoralized.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend behind me suggests it is demoralized. The representations made by the cooperative organizations that attended the convention in this city last spring indicated that. What did the minister point out when he called that convention? He pointed out that this country with respect to cattle, swine and sheep was getting into a position where it would cease to be an exporting country at all, and he emphasized that by pointing out the steadily increasing volume of imports. Under these circumstances can there be any doubt that while an inquiry may do something it is only an opiate to put the patient to sleep for another twelve months? What is needed is something to resuscitate this industry; what is needed is not an opiate by way of an inquiry, but action. And the hon. gentleman knows quite well what that action should do. If not, there are those beside him who could tell him. I speak strongly on this matter because I feel strongly from seeing the disastrous results to the industry from the government's indifference. In Ontario the other day on a passenger train travelling to a small community I discussed the matter with a drover, and he told me what was happening. In recent years he told me they have been importing into Ontario stockers from the west and feeding them for the Toronto market—a reversal of the former practice. I clearly remember in the early days when our live stock men were encouraged by the government to improve their herds by the use of pure-bred sires. The results of that policy could be plainly seen in western Canada. I speak from observation. I saw in those days at Calgary the spring sales of live stock from these improved herds. And it was an incentive to private enterprise to take up the industry because the government encouraged breeders to produce stock that was the pride of the country. Where are those great breeders of the past? They have gone out of the business because the government has ceased to be the patron of the industry in