

The people of Canada are living relatively happily. They can hold their heads high, because they made a great contribution to the recent world wars. Those terrible wars had a shattering effect on the economic system. They cost much in material losses, but most of all in suffering and death over the whole world. Now a reconstruction period has come, and Canada is again making her full contribution. Lord Beaverbrook in his *Sunday Express*, recently said:

In proportion to her resources Canada has done more than any country in the world to try to get Western Europe on its feet again.

Honourable senators, if there is one country in this troubled world that wants peace, it is Canada. If there is one country that is willing to give all it can to the reconstruction of this war-damaged world, it is Canada. And I must say that there is one man who especially deserves great credit for so ably guiding this country's activities and enabling it to make the great contribution that it has made. That man is the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: He has held the highest position in the gift of the Canadian people for a long, long time. He has carried on not only in days of sunshine but in days of stress and storm, and has kept Canada a united country. He also has been foremost in the councils of the Commonwealth, and his prestige is high in the world at large. In bringing him into that small exclusive group of eminent Britishers who have been decorated with the Order of Merit, His Majesty bestowed an honour which is richly deserved and has been well earned. I am sure that all the people of Canada, including those who are opposed to Mr. King politically, are pleased with this recognition of his long and devoted services to Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: Canada also has an able Minister of Agriculture, and he has as his parliamentary assistant a young man who may go a long way. At this time I appeal to them to open up the American market, to some degree at least, for Canadian live cattle. I think they should take whatever measures are necessary to make this market available for our cattlemen. I quite realize that the embargo could not be lifted to allow shipments of cattle to be rushed to the border points all at once. Such a procedure would have to be carried out in an orderly way; quotas would

have to be established. Yet the step is a most necessary one.

Early in the war the government put an embargo on cattle going to the United States so that there would be a supply of meat for Great Britain. But the war has now been over for some considerable time, and if the cattle industry is to survive and expand, so that the cattlemen may have the modern equipment and homes to which they are entitled, this market is essential.

The ranchers as a class are a hopeful and optimistic people; they are noted for their neighbourliness and hospitality, and nobody is ever turned hungry from their doors. But life on a cattle farm is a hard life. At the present time there is a pronounced migration from the farms to the small towns and cities, which is evidenced by the shortage of housing. The work of a rider begins at dawn and does not end until long after dark; in snow-storms, in sleet and in rain, as in the blistering heat of summer, he must ride the ranges, mend the fences, watch the water-holes and look after sick and disabled cattle. The rancher is exposed to the elements for long hours without food and shelter; he must break wild broncos and brand wild cattle. For the rancher, life is strenuous and dangerous; for his wife and family it is often filled with anxiety, hard work and loneliness.

The cattle-farmer often suffers tragic losses when whole herds are destroyed by disease, and considerable expense is frequently incurred by lack of water, failure of grass crops or ruinous markets. I know one rancher who was driving a small trainload of prime steers, ready for the market, to the stockyards, when they were met by a blinding blizzard. The cattle scattered in all directions, winter came on and he lost an appreciable number of them. Such an incident shows that cattle raising is a risky and strenuous business.

Canada undertook to supply 160 million pounds of beef each year to Great Britain, to be sold as dressed beef at from 22 to 25 cents a pound. That would mean that the price of live beef on the hoof would be 12 or 13 cents per pound. At the same time beef on the hoof is selling across the border at from 20 to 28 cents per pound. That represents a marked difference in price.

The higher price across the border is not the only consideration which causes people in the cattle business to be very anxious and determined to get the market open. They feel that the United States, with its rapidly grow-