

redistributed. It is necessary to build up in Saskatchewan a diversification of industry. It will provide water for 500,000 acres which today are productive one year and non-productive the next.

I have already stated that feasibility was the first question. The Minister of Agriculture then announced that the government could not build these works because the irrigation works would cost some \$34 million and Saskatchewan would have to supply that amount. Mr. Douglas, the premier of Saskatchewan, agreed to that.

The next excuse was that the water board which had been set up in the three western provinces had not come to a conclusion as to the division of water among the three provinces. When it looked as though that question might be settled the government said that it would have to be proved and re-proved once more that the project was feasible. They then set up the commission which is now sitting.

I would point out that, regardless of what the commission may decide, no member of the government has made a public pronouncement that if the report of the commission is favourable the project will be gone ahead with. The undertaking will take ten years to complete. It is something that has been dreamed of by the people on the western prairies for over twenty-five years. Its feasibility has been established, and there is no question but that generally speaking it will receive support from the representatives of all parts of Canada. It is a project most necessary to the preservation of Saskatchewan and to provide a fundamental basis upon which to redistribute industry in this country.

I am not going to read from the sessional paper, but it does set forth the situation in detail and the results of the research that has taken place in connection with this project. This project will spell a tremendous increase in western income. The population in the Lethbridge and western irrigation area increased by 250 per cent in twenty years. During the same period the population in the part of south Saskatchewan in which this power project would be operative decreased from 40,000 to 28,000, or approximately 30 per cent. Now that there is such general support the hope of the people of Saskatchewan is that it will be proceeded with. It will take a long time to construct, but it will afford a new basis for unity among the parts of this country that cannot be achieved in any other way.

I conclude by making once more an appeal to the government to make provision for an increase in the war veterans allowance before

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the oncoming winter, even though it be in the nature of a temporary increase based on the cost of living, to the end that the fear that lies in the hearts of many veterans who are denied pensions and are unable to work will be removed.

I ask that the government remove from the hearts of the western people the fear that, having had one of the greatest crops in their history, that may be offset by reason of the failure of someone, somewhere, to provide a measure of foreknowledge after having been forewarned. They are fearful that in place of prosperity they are going to find themselves in a position unequalled since the days of the drought, when crops were non-existent.

Mr. G. M. Murray (Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, it is most unfortunate that the population of Saskatchewan is not growing. What happens to the Saskatchewan farmer when he leaves Saskatchewan? Very often he goes to Vancouver or some other place in British Columbia and opens up a garage, or he goes up to the Prince George country on the Canadian National Railway and opens up a sawmill; or he may engage in some other type of industry in British Columbia. So far as I have been able to observe in my own riding, he is a most valuable adjunct to the citizenship of British Columbia. In short, what is Saskatchewan's loss is British Columbia's gain.

I do not think the situation in Saskatchewan is as bad as it has been painted by the previous speaker. I remember not long ago looking over statistics which indicated that last year the agricultural production of Saskatchewan was equal to that of all Canada twenty years ago. I do not suppose there is any part of the western prairies as prosperous as Saskatchewan. We would like to see the South Saskatchewan river dam constructed, and we would like to see dams and irrigation works constructed in many places, but that would not change the weather in Saskatchewan or stop the snow from falling upon the harvest. I see a very serious problem to be solved by technical men, agriculturists and others in order that these beautiful harvests that mature in Saskatchewan may be threshed and put into proper granaries so that people there or in any other part of the west will not work against nature but rather will gear their farming activities to nature.

If all that the previous speaker said were absolutely correct I would be very hesitant about proceeding with the remarks that I intended to make this afternoon. I do not come from Saskatchewan but represent a very large riding in the northeastern part of British Columbia. The riding of Cariboo is of interest to the world today because it is a