

the two previous sessions, but if not I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions you may desire to ask.

Mr. McKAY: You have quoted very extensively from the Stewart-Riddell report. Is it possible to secure for each member of this committee a copy of that report?

Mr. MAHARG: I think so. It is a report by the Saskatchewan Government. I believe the committee already has a copy of that report on file.

Mr. McKAY: Would it be possible for each member of this committee to obtain a copy?

Mr. MAHARG: It is a provincial government publication. I imagine copies are available for distribution.

Mr. McKAY: They are not available for distribution here at the present time?

Mr. MAHARG: No.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I understand the report to which reference has been made is one of the most illuminating on this subject that has ever been prepared, and affords perhaps the strongest argument in favour of the re-establishment of the Wheat Board that could possibly be produced. It would therefore be of very great benefit to this committee if it could be filed.

Mr. MAHARG: A copy of this report has been filed with the committee, and if it is the desire of the committee to secure a copy for each member, we shall be glad to have them supplied if they are available. If they are available there is no question that the government of Saskatchewan will be only too glad to furnish them.

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): I have two or three copies of that report with me.

Mr. WHITE: Mr. Maharg made the statement that many of the farmers in Western Canada are moving out. Where are those people going?

Mr. MAHARG: The large majority of them were returning to the United States.

Mr. WHITE: Did they come from the United States originally?

Mr. MAHARG: Possibly some of them did.

Mr. WHITE: What became of the farms they vacated?

Mr. MAHARG: Some of the farms have been absolutely abandoned and are now growing wild, scores of them. Others have gone back to the mortgage companies.

Mr. McKAY: Are the farmers who are moving out of Western Canada men who came from the United States, or are they European immigrants or native Canadians?

Mr. MAHARG: There may be some of each class you have mentioned. I could not say definitely. I do know, however, that a large number of them are moving out. One hon. member mentioned the Mennonites. I do not refer to those people at all. The Mennonites are going out in a body. They have purchased land elsewhere. The individuals to whom I have referred are going out upon their own responsibility and not as a colony.

Mr. McMURRAY: Is it not a fact that the farmers who are leaving the West for the United States are doing so not on account of prices but on account of drought in the particular localities in which they were located, and that there is no marked emigration from the settled districts of the West?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. MAHARG: I don't think there are but very, very few districts. There are some few districts in the West where they are not going but there is a general movement there all over the country. Last fall I travelled around considerably and it was a common thing to see them loading their effects out of a car at the siding, and quite a common thing.

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]