

type of country we will live in 50 or 100 years from now.

I want to turn for a moment to the effect that this transportation policy could have on modernizing the grain handling facilities in western Canada. There has been some modernization in these facilities, but it has been painfully slow. I suggest to you that if the modernization of agriculture generally in western Canada had been as slow as the modernization of the grain handling facilities, then we would not have lost 50,000 farmers in Saskatchewan since the end of the last war—we would probably have lost them all. Farming has changed, and changed tremendously. This is the only reason that some 80,000 farmers have continued in the agricultural industry in my province, and are doing probably better today than their counterparts did 20 years ago. But what has happened the grain handling facilities? By and large the country elevators in Western Canada today are almost identical with those in operation at the turn of the century.

Hon. Mr. Paterson: Oh no, not by a long shot.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: My honourable friend does not agree with me; he is in the grain handling business. In Western Canada today and in my own province we have many of the old 30,000-bushel houses—and when I say “houses” I refer to the country elevators still in operation. The place for a 30,000-bushel house is out on the farm and not in the commercial elevator business. Certainly many new elevators have been built; we now have some modern elevators with a capacity of 150,000 bushels.

Furthermore, there have been some amalgamations and some of the weaker and smaller companies have been bought out by larger companies, and this is good. It has resulted in greater efficiency through the cutting down of staffs both in the field and in head offices. This has resulted in many towns, where a larger company purchased a smaller one with whom it had been in competition, and are now operating two elevators. In many cases they have A and B elevators. The A is the big parent elevator and B is the smaller one. As a general rule these elevators are operated by one man, or by one man and a helper.

Another factor in the updating of the country elevator system has been the change from diesel motors to electric motive power, but in many instances this has been a patched up

hook-up affair where the modern, efficient electric motor is not given half a chance to perform its function. In many cases they took the old motor out and put the electric motor in and left in all the old linkage which could not provide the efficiency that the electric motor could provide. In other instances the linkage has been done away with and the electric motor has been attached to the leg at the bottom. In some instances the electric motor has been placed at the top of the leg where it should be to get maximum efficiency.

An hon. Senator: How do you spell that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The same as mine. The leg is the main bucket system running from the bottom of the elevator to the top where the wheat is dumped into the bins. In addition many of the belts that run around the leg have what they call high speed buckets installed because the old buckets on the rubber or leather belt which went around the leg were such that if you ran them too fast they carried the same wheat round and round all the time. So they put in high-speed buckets to allow the wheat to be dumped out at the top. Many country elevators have put in new pits; these are the steel bins where the leg goes in at the bottom with the scales on top where the grain is weighed. We have had new scales installed in many others.

But do not take it from what I have said that this is all that should be done to keep pace with the times. On the installation of scales alone, there have been days in Western Canada when the only way you could weigh a modern truck in a grain elevator was to drive in and weigh the front wheels first, and then drive through and weight the back wheels, because it just was not possible to weigh the whole unit at the one time. Don't tell me they have kept pace with automation.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: We have none of them at Rosetown.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No. You were a little luckier and had some bigger crops, and they gave you some better elevators than some of us got.

Honourable senators, I want to give full credit for the efforts that have been made, but there are on this continent elevators that are fully automated, ones where an agent is not confined to 30,000, 70,000 or 150,000 bushels capacity. There are elevators on this continent that have a million-bushel capacity and are automated from beginning to end. There