

increase....

Mr. JobI would like to refer to a remark made by my friend from the same district. He was referring to the settlements on the west coast, which I know very well, and I have had many talks with people from there. I am sorry to see that the Committee had not been able to contact very closely these west coast farmers. I talked with Mr. Tompkins, who has one of the ideal farms in the country.... He could do much more if he could get help. The reason is possibly that there is not enough attraction to the place itself.... They also stressed the fact that roads, *roads*, is what they want to make their farming a success. They have increased enormously their cleared land in that vicinity, and they have actual value there, but they don't get a very big thing out of it from a living point of view.

Mr. Smallwood I was interested in the appendix that the Committee brought in on the feed pool. You say the Dairymen's Association pointed out that the costs of production were high because of the necessity of importing so much feed, hay, animals, etc.;¹ as one man put it, what we are doing now is selling Canadian milk. He meant they imported the cow, the hay, the feed, etc., put them all together and got milk, but it all came from Canada. I wonder if the Committee has gone into the question of a feed mill in Newfoundland. If you look at the figures² it is very discouraging as you look back over the years. Look what you find. In 1945 we had, according to the census, 14,000 cows. You go back ten years earlier, in 1935, and again it has 14,000 cows. You go back to 1921 and it is 18,000 cows, and in 1901 we had 14,000. The population has gone up from less than \$250,000 in 1911 to 318,000, and still we have 14,000 cows. We are going backward very badly. Now you take pigs. In 1945 we had 11,400 pigs, but in 1921 we had 14,500, and in 1901, 34,000 — 50% more population almost, and only one third as many pigs. Now it is true that in poultry there is a big increase.... The number of sheep has increased also, but it is down as against 1935 and 1945. These are not very romantic, cows, pigs, hens, sheep, not very romantic at all. Some people don't like the smell of them, but it is by these things that we live, and we are going

backward. We have not got as many pigs, or cows, or sheep as we used to have compared with our population.

I know a lot of the troubles back of it, but one of them is right here — we have to import our feeds, we have to import our hay, and the cows and the sheep and the pigs to begin with and the equipment used in the farm. They are duty free and it is a good thing, but are we importing feed in the most economical way we can?.... Why cannot we have a feed mill?.... Why cannot we import the grains separately and mill them here? We would need only a little hammer mill.... You could run a schooner to Montreal or Fort William, load up at the elevators, bring them down here and mix them here and cut the cost of feed. Why some businessmen are not doing it, I do not know. Maybe there are too many firms on Water Street who are agents for the balanced feed. Why has not the Committee gone into this question — it is the crux of the whole business; that, plus the fact that we did not have any hay in Newfoundland. I know dairymen in the suburbs who imported from 60% to 90% of their hay. Just picture that! And all their feed.... Importing that hay and selling it in the form of milk at 80 cents and 90 cents a gallon. That is not a square deal to the farmer, nor to the consumer of milk. If we are going to raise our own milk and livestock, there are two things we have to do. First, we must grow our own hay. It is a good climate to grow hay. Look at the figures,³ the amount of land cleared, and then we call ourselves farmers. In 1901 there were 215,000 acres cleared-roughly speaking an acre per person. In 1945 you are back to 124,000 acres, with a population of 318,000. You expect to make a living out of that?.... In the course of three generations in Newfoundland we managed to get 15 acres of land cleared and cultivated, which has to support an entire family. It cannot be done. It could, if the price we get for the produce is way up high. Then who pays it? The consumer. Then up goes the cost of living. I do not want to say one word against the farmer. I am one-eighth farmer myself — at least, I have had ten acres under cultivation and worked like a dog until I knew the movement of every worm and insect; and I raised pigs and poultry. Clear more

¹Volume II:173.

²Volume II:176.

³Ibid.