

Supply—Agriculture

hog production on a large scale. They find now that the outlook for fodder in the months ahead is extremely dismal.

Over the years since 1941 provision has been made for the granting of freight assistance on western feed grains being exported to eastern Canada. A number of farmers have communicated with me, one as late as today, asking whether or not the government intends to do something towards providing free freight on fodder for hogs and cattle brought into these areas. I have before me a letter received today in which the situation is set forth in some detail. After referring to the events of the last few years, and the shipping of fodder to eastern Canada, this man says the elevator agent at his point tells him that the price the wheat board will charge for barley will be \$1.17 per bushel in the elevator. He says:

I have about sixty hogs, so I will have to have about a thousand bushels of barley between now and next fall. If I have to pay \$1.17 per bushel plus freight for the feed, I will have to dispose of these hogs.

Has consideration been given to the granting of free freight or freight assistance on fodder brought into these areas? I think there is a general demand for it. Secondly, could the minister direct the attention of the wheat board to the need for keeping a supply of barley on hand in the various elevators in these areas in order to meet the local situation, where barley and oats are, in fact, being produced though not in the quantities required in those areas?

The other matter with which I wish to deal is one that has been dealt with on many occasions in the past. At this time I want to add a word of congratulation to the minister on what is being done in connection with the exploratory work on the south Saskatchewan dam and irrigation project. It is not everything the people want but, at the same time, it is a step in the right direction. When this matter was before the house last year, the minister said it would be impossible to decide on the location of that dam or to proceed with the work until such time as the consent of the three provinces had been secured. The work done on this project in the last few months has been rather extensive. When the report was filed last year it was found that the benefits that would flow from this project were as follows:

(1) Irrigation of some 500,000 acres in the province of Saskatchewan. (2) Restoration of lake levels and, in particular, restoration of the level of Last Mountain lake, to which I shall not refer in detail this evening. (3) A water supply for Regina and Moose Jaw.

During the events of recent months one of the matters discussed in Saskatchewan, particularly in the cities of Regina and Moose Jaw, was the need of something being done about ensuring these two urban centres of the necessary supply of water throughout the years that lie ahead. The development of power was another matter, but I am not going to refer to that because it has been dealt with before.

This project has caught the imagination of the people in our province and they are looking forward to more extensive developments taking place in this connection within the next year. The increase in the amount of the vote that is being requested indicates that some further development is to take place. Would the minister let the house and the country know what he can add to what he said last April regarding this matter? Has any finality been achieved in determining the location of this dam? When the location is determined, have the necessary representations been made to the several provinces and their consent secured so that the project may be undertaken?

The committee on water has been set up. Is the minister now able to say that, as a result of the work that has been done and is to be done, the project is a feasible one and that, in so far as the supply of water is concerned for the Qu'Appelle valley, particularly the supply for human consumption in Regina and Moose Jaw, that supply may be soon achieved? Will they be proceeding with the work without unnecessary delay? This is one project toward which the people of our province are looking forward and I know they await from the minister a statement which will indicate that the project will not be long delayed. In particular, they want to be assured that the urban centres to which I have referred will be assured of a water supply and that the level of Last Mountain lake will be restored, because the preservation of this lake depends on the work being undertaken at an early date.

Mr. Gardiner: I hope the hon. member's optimism will be borne out in the discussions in committee. He suggests that he will be away for three or four days. These items that are spoken of are the last items in my estimates. I hope they will all be through when he comes back three or four days from now.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is why I am giving the minister the opportunity now to give the information I have requested.

Mr. Gardiner: Sitting where he does in the house, the hon. member probably has more justification for that optimism than I could possibly have. With that explanation, I shall