

between east and west. It is possible that my hon. friend's contention may be correct; that is, he is afraid that we may put in an extra large crop of coarse grains this spring and may have ideal conditions and so produce a big crop. Those are the "ifs" of agriculture every year; we are all optimistic enough to think we shall get a good crop, and we may have a sufficient quantity of barley or of oats this year to force the price down to the other man who has oats and barley to sell. That man, however, forms a larger percentage of the farmers in the western provinces than in the eastern provinces, particularly Ontario.

I can understand the argument of my hon. friend the member for Portage la Prairie. His people have gone out of the production of wheat largely and into the production of barley, and they argue that by producing more barley in the west, the price of their barley will be lowered. There is something in that. It is argued, however, that we need more barley and more oats for feed grain of some kind to feed live stock in Ontario than can be grown there. Then they complain about growing it out west in large volume, though that only lowers the price to the men who want to feed it. The farmers I know in Ontario—and I know quite a few—do not grow feed grain to sell; they grow it to feed, except my friends in the corn belt who do both. The price of that grain is not based upon the price of oats or barley; it is based upon the price of hogs or dairy products; the cheaper they can get their feed requirements, the more profit they will make out of their hogs and dairy products. In other words, I cannot follow the argument of the hon. member for Victoria, Ontario. It is quite all right to have it put up, but it is difficult to follow. We want more grain here, we have to get it somewhere; if we get it from western Canada, the greater the volume grown there, the cheaper it will be for the Ontario farmer. That seems to me logical and sound; if not, I should like to know why.

Mr. McNEVIN: If you try paying a \$2 bonus in Ontario for coarse grains you will certainly get more.

Mr. GARDINER: That is just the point; we are not paying a \$2 bonus in western Canada on all coarse grain grown, we are paying \$2 an acre only on the amount of coarse grain they sow this year in addition to what went in last year. If I remember rightly, that was somewhere in the neighbourhood of thirteen to fourteen million acres last year, and we are hoping to be able to add

[Mr. Gardiner.]

one and a half million or, at the outside, two million to that if it is taken out of wheat. It must be taken out of wheat before the bonus can be paid, and it is only a proportion of what he takes out of wheat that will go into barley or oats. I think one is optimistic in hoping that it will be even one and a half million acres, and if you compare one and a half million with the thirteen or fourteen million acres that we already have, the proportion of the payment that goes into a bushel of oats is extremely small; I think it is less than one-tenth of a cent a bushel.

Mr. PERLEY: From what we have learned this afternoon the minister evidently intends changing these regulations that were distributed on April 2. What has happened during three or four days makes it apparent that something may happen at any time, because the minister has the power to make further changes. Since there is the possibility of a considerable increase in coarse grains, I do not think we can afford to have these regulations passed until we have an announcement from the Minister of Trade and Commerce with respect to the handling of these coarse grains. The minister stated this afternoon that these regulations are being drawn now, so this is a double barrelled proposition and we should have from the Minister of Trade and Commerce a statement of the regulations that may govern the marketing of coarse grains. If we have a very large increase in coarse grains, it may come through the trade or through the board, and the minister has stated that the board might force the price of coarse grains down. The wheat board has power, under an order in council, to bring coarse grains under its operations.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I certainly did not knowingly make any statement that the wheat board were drafting regulations regarding the delivery of coarse grain.

Mr. PERLEY: But the minister said they were now preparing regulations with respect to this year's marketing of wheat.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Yes, marketing of wheat.

Mr. GARDINER: I did not intentionally make the statement that the board would force down the price of coarse grains. I indicated that the fact that you have more coarse grain than you can feed might force the price down. That is a matter of supply and demand.

I am quite prepared to give an undertaking to the committee that any changes which are made in these regulations during the time this house is in session will be brought before