

Mr. GARDINER: They said that they were going to carry out the plan. What I have stated is the absolute fact, that not one of the forms is even drafted yet, let alone printed.

Mr. ROWE: I am glad that parliament has had something to do with the matter, because, after all, parliament is in session.

Mr. GARDINER: That is absolutely right, and parliament has something to do with it.

Mr. ROWE: Certainly I am right. That child is going to be handled like other children have been handled in the past. The hon. member for Souris has told the committee what happened in connection with some of the other expenditures. I notice by page 66 of the auditor general's report that, under the old assistance act, several awards were made by the minister as to yields which were not accepted by the committee.

Mr. GARDINER: I should like to add that thousands of them were made before the committee was even set up.

Mr. ROWE: I would expect that, and thousands were made just before the election in 1940.

Mr. GARDINER: They were made before the election was even heard of.

Mr. DONNELLY: Someone has to make the decision.

Mr. ROWE: I am not taking the word of the Minister of Agriculture; I take his word, of course, in a general sense, but I am not taking his word as to the soundness of the awards.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): What an evil mind for a nice fellow!

Mr. ROWE: I thank the Minister of Justice for his compliment of even assuming that I am a nice fellow, but, after all the evils I have seen—

Mr. GARDINER: If I might be permitted, for I am sure my hon. friend does not want to be unfair, I should like to point out that everything stated either in the auditor general's report or in the discussion this afternoon was provided for by legislation. I understand that my hon. friend's objection is that something is not being done by legislation, but everything referred to there was done by legislation.

Mr. ROWE: The letter killeth and the spirit giveth life. We were told that awards were to be made on acreages that would be assented to here. We know there were regulations. I am not suggesting that the minister has done something that he did not have power to do. As a matter of fact, he gets

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power to do almost anything he likes with this type of farm expenditure. But I ask, what is the use of setting up a committee if you are not going to take its recommendations? Does the minister mean to tell this committee that he knows better than a committee on the ground what Tom Jones is producing in a garden that always grew potatoes?

Mr. GARDINER: Under the act as it was at that time, no committee was provided for. I set up the committee myself by virtue of having power to make regulations.

Mr. ROWE: Surely the minister does not think the committee is so dumb as not to understand that. Let me quote from page 66 of the auditor general's report. It reads:

Regulations made under the act and approved by order in council dated November 23, 1939 (P.C. 3820) provided for the establishment of a committee of review, the duties of the committee to be to examine data, to review yield categories, to consider applications open to question and to report its findings to the Minister of Agriculture. . . . Several awards were made by the minister covering yields not accepted by the committee.

Mr. GARDINER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend a few moments ago threw out the insinuation that there had been some corruption in connection with this act. As I understand parliamentary procedure, any member who makes a charge of corruption in connection with anything having to do with the administration of a department places his seat at the disposal of the house.

Mr. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

Mr. GARDINER: I should like to suggest to my hon. friend that if he is prepared to do the only thing which is called for under the circumstances, we can settle the question whether there is any such corruption.

Mr. ROWE: That is pretty cheap. On a point of order, let me state to the Minister of Agriculture that if we were to stake our seats upon the mercy of the public at the present time, I would take my chances with his popularity in the country at this time.

Mr. GARDINER: On a point of order—

Mr. ROWE: No, Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on a point of order.

Mr. GARDINER: —I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw the word "corruption."

Mr. ROWE: Speaking on the point of order, I did not use the word "corruption."

Mr. GARDINER: The word "corruption" is not parliamentary, and I ask the hon. gentleman, if he does not want to make a charge, to withdraw the expression.