

price for beef, and that there was a sufficient market in the United States to take all the beef we have without going to the English market at all. He might tell us just how far the government thinks the farmer should go in the matter of production of beef cattle.

Many questions such as these could be asked, and I must confess that I was a little disappointed that the two ministers when making their joint announcement did not go with a little more particularity into the various factors which influenced the decision at which they arrived, and did not give us a more detailed statement with respect to those proposals made by the great agricultural organizations, which were turned down by the government. For example, I should like to have heard an analysis with respect to an increase in the processing tax which the hon. member for Qu'Appelle suggested should not raise the price of bread at all. I should like to have heard reasons why the initial payment for wheat should not be raised, other than the suggestion that it might encourage the production of wheat. I should like to have had a more detailed analysis of the position with respect to advancing payments in connection with wheat stored on the farms which the farmer can eventually sell. It is obvious that he is not going to be able to sell anything like all the wheat he produces, in fact only a small portion, and it will take months before he can obtain his money from that maximum of 230,000,000 bushels that he is going to be permitted to sell. These are matters which I think are pertinent. The western people are asking this government why they are not given some explanation with respect to these various matters suggested by the organizations which represent them.

Just a word in connection with the argument that seems to have arisen between east and west. I was disheartened and disappointed to find many farmers in this house from eastern Canada protesting against the policy of the government with respect to the wheat farmer, the effect of which protest, so far as I can ascertain, was that the grain farmer was obtaining too much. If the actual root of their disagreement is the matter of the bonus and the extra money paid for summer-fallow I could see some purpose in the argument—

Mr. McNEVIN: I should like to make it abundantly clear to the committee that in my remarks I suggested raising the price of wheat from 70 cents to 75 cents, which would more than compensate the bonus on coarse grain. The objection is not to giving sufficient consideration and assistance to the wheat grower, but to the method adopted for so doing.

[Mr. Bence.]

Mr. BENCE: I am very glad to hear that statement. Then as a matter of fact there seems to be not much difference between eastern and western farmers, and if, having a good case, they will stick together, whether with respect to pork, cheese, butter or wheat, they will all be far better off than they will be if they continue the division which seemed to me to be apparent in this house the other day.

With respect to a general solution of this problem, whatever way we look at it, whether we consider the policy that has been proposed by the Federation of Agriculture, by the wheat pools, by the Saskatchewan or Alberta governments or any other of the agricultural organizations and governments of the west—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fournier, Hull): Order. I am sorry to have to tell the hon. member that his time has expired.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. GARDINER: If at this point I make a statement which I had it in mind to make, I suppose my hon. friend can then go on and finish his remarks.

I appreciate the manner in which the hon. member for Saskatoon City (Mr. Bence) has dealt with this question. I was a little disappointed on Friday evening, when we were hopeful that we would be able to get as much information out to the farmers of the west as possible with regard to this matter, that we spent so much time discussing the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, prairie farm assistance, and other things. I hope to be able to reply with regard to these matters at the proper time, but I trust it will not be necessary for me to do so while the present debate is in progress. I rather feel that if we are to have this policy put into effect at all, the farmers should have all the information possible before the house adjourns tomorrow evening. For this reason, some time between now and the Easter adjournment I should like to see the regulations put in the hands of the chairman of the committee and read and discussed section by section, I want the assistance of all members of this committee, whether they agree with the policy or not, in bringing out the different points dealt with by the regulations. Hon. members who are familiar with western agriculture can, I am sure, be helpful in that regard.

Mr. STIRLING: Will the passage of the regulations through this committee effect their adoption?

Mr. GARDINER: The regulations as they are now drawn have been adopted by the government; that is, they have been passed. But as hon. members know, regulations can be changed as well as made by order in council.