

figures. I understand, from the press in this case, that since that time the price has again gone up beyond \$2.50 a bushel. But during the last two or three months the market price of this commodity has dropped considerably, along with prices of many other commodities. Some encouragement was given to doubling acreage. We are looking forward to an increased national income to the extent of many hundreds of millions of dollars, but with this general drop in commodity prices we may have considerable difficulty in reaching the objective we have in mind. This may be a small matter, but I am bringing it to the attention of the minister in an effort to get up-to-date information similar to that given in his report for the year ended March 31, 1939. I have no doubt that his assistants will have the information to March 31, 1940. I should like to have this on the record for reference when making a general study of commodity prices. I should like to know how soon we are going to get back to better prices in order that we may be helped out in solving the major problem I mentioned.

Mr. GARDINER: The information which I gave in the first place was correct. This report is for the year ended March 31, 1939, and the figures given refer to a period earlier than that. In 1938 one Quebec company sold fibre flax seed in Ireland for \$3.50. At the same time the Ontario people sold their flax for \$5. From that time down to the present the price has ranged from \$5 to \$5.50. This year we are selling certified fibre flax seed in Ireland at \$5.50; uncertified at \$4.50 and No. 2 at \$4. This price has been set and will be maintained throughout the year.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I should like to have some information in connection with the Fredericton station in which I am personally interested. I should like to know what the vote was last year, what was expended last year and what the vote is this year. I should like to know what work is being carried on. I understand the superintendent has been trying to interest the farmers of central New Brunswick in the breeding of Percheron horses and certain types of cattle and also endeavouring to have them improve their pasture and other things like that. These are three things I know of. Perhaps the minister would give me the expenditure and what line of work is being carried on at the station.

While I am on my feet and the minister is conferring with his assistants, I should like to give a certificate of character and efficiency to the Fredericton superintendent. I believe he has the confidence of all the farmers of

central New Brunswick. The only complaint I have to make is that the farmers do not utilize this station more to their own advantage. They seem to be, shall I say, careless in utilizing this important institution right in their midst and are not taking full advantage of the demonstrations, experiments and capacities of that little experimental station, because after all it is a small one.

I should also like to pay tribute to one or two of the superintendent's assistants. I know these men well; they are friends of mine. I do not mean political friends because they have no politics so far as I know, although I did succeed in carrying a majority at the poll that was held at the station, but that is in passing. I want to see the work of this farm extended if the opportunity offers, because I realize that New Brunswick is much more backward in scientific farming than it ought to be. I am afraid that some of our farmers, not so many I hope as used to be the case, are content to do just what they did the year before, and perhaps a little less. I can understand that because the returns to the farmers in recent years have been exceedingly small. I am interested in seeing farming a success in New Brunswick because I can say without boasting—in fact, I am rather grieved over it—that I have probably more money invested in York county farms than any other man in York county, but not on a purchase basis. I am interested, however, in seeing that our farmers take advantage of this institution. Perhaps the minister would be good enough, for the benefit of myself and others who read the press, to give a short account of what is being done there.

While I am on my feet I invite the minister to come down to Fredericton. We used to have a visit occasionally from the gentleman who was Minister of Agriculture from 1921 to 1930, and I regret he is not in parliament because I always enjoyed knowing him and talking to him. He was good enough to come and visit us on occasion and he helped that little farm out. I now extend an invitation to the minister to come down to Fredericton and see us. The only time he has ever visited us has been on the occasion of a general election, and he has always been too busy to do anything with respect to our experimental station.

Mr. GARDINER: While I have been in Fredericton, I have not been there since I have been Minister of Agriculture. Had I been there since I have been minister I certainly, even at election time, would have visited the farm.

In answer to the hon. gentleman's questions as to the activities of that farm, we have at the Fredericton station one of the best Percheron sires that we have in the service. We