

Labour has not laid down schedules of specific wages with respect to any of these agreements. The undertaking is that fair wages shall be paid, and "fair wages" has been interpreted as being the prevailing wage in the province or locality where the work is being done. In connection with the special supplementary works in British Columbia I believe provision was made that single unemployed men should be located on the work.

Mr. MASSEY: A few moments ago the minister stated that Ontario had objected to participating in this scheme. In view of the experience of the past year I am wondering if the Ontario government had changed their minds and if they would now like to come into the scheme.

Mr. ROGERS: I am unable to answer that question at this time.

Mr. MASSEY: In the opinion of the minister this scheme is a success, particularly from the point of view of permanently locating these lads who have gone on the farm. When introducing the item he said he felt that many of these lads would regard their experience as an apprenticeship. If these young men stay on the farm, what steps are being taken to see that the farmer does not take advantage of the fact that they are content to remain? A farmer might keep them on at the low wage they are now paid when otherwise he would have to hire another man for the summer.

Mr. ROGERS: After consultation with the provincial governments we have made a special arrangement whereby this plan has been extended through the month of April. Otherwise, it would have ended on March 31, that being the expiry date of the agreements. Through the provincial governments, the employment offices and the radio we have made a special plea for farmers to keep these men on at the going wage. We have asked the farmers to increase their staffs of farm labourers wherever possible during the summer. Every effort is being made to see that these men are given continued employment. As I have said, it has been arranged that the men remain on the farms during the month of April without allowance to the farmer during that period.

Mr. MASSEY: Will the province of Ontario again be consulted before the coming winter? Most of the farms in Ontario are dairy farms and thus there is almost as much farm labour required during the winter as there is during the summer. This is not the case with the vast majority of the farms on the prairies. It seems to me that if this plan has worked out satisfactorily in the western part of the dominion, it would work out even more satis-

factorily in Ontario. Will further representations be made to the Ontario government in this connection?

Mr. ROGERS: I can assure my hon. friend that the matter will receive further consideration during the summer months.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Do I understand the minister to say that unless these men are absorbed by farmers at the end of April they will then be out of jobs? That is practically what it means. The minister says that every effort is being made to have these men absorbed by the farmers, but that is impossible as far as the drought area of Saskatchewan is concerned. The same thing will probably apply to the rest of the province. The farmers have been able to take on these men with the assistance of the government, but the average farmer will certainly not be in a position to pay for a hired man until his crop is harvested, which will not be until the fall. In many instances the governments are furnishing seed and feed and fuel so that the farmers may put in their crops, and it would be impossible for these men to hire labour.

Mr. ROGERS: I do not make the statement in just the terms suggested by my hon. friend. I did say that normally the agreements would have terminated on March 31, but after consultation with the provincial governments the dominion government decided to renew the agreements for the month of April. In the meanwhile a concerted effort is being made to see that the men who came under this scheme are given employment by the farmers during the seeding season. We are in continuous consultation with the provincial governments with regard to this matter and hope to be able to deal with the situation as it develops.

Mr. DOUGLAS: The minister says that every effort is being made, but he does not tell us anything of the nature of the effort. Would it not be possible to continue the same plan through the summer months until harvest time? Otherwise these boys will simply flock to the cities.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Has there been much demand for these boys? Can it be safely said that a place can be found for any man who wants to go on the farm? Have all farmers who expressed a willingness to participate in this scheme been furnished with men?

Mr. ROGERS: I cannot answer that question finally. I do know that when the plan was first put into operation the number of applications went beyond the number of men who could be placed. I would think that with the hopes for good crops which exist in west-