

ping at that figure for the balance of the period of the lease. It would continue at five per cent, say, for ten years, but that is just a tentative suggestion.

Mr. ROWE: The whole thing seems to be tentative. It is very strange that this cooperative association of farmers, in whom the minister and I are really interested as members of the same vocation, should be made a gift of a building worth \$150,000. It is unfair to every other organized business with which it will come into competition. I would ask the minister what the A. E. Mackenzie Company, the seed distributors of Brandon, the Hogg and Lytle people, the Steele, Briggs people and the Rennie people might have to say about this. I have as much sympathy with cooperative marketing and cooperative production in the agricultural districts as the minister or any other hon. member, but it does seem to me absolutely unfair that the minister and this government should hand out to the registered seed growers' cooperative association a building and establishment worth \$150,000, to enter into competition with organized business interests of the same character.

The minister might well take into consideration the progress that has been made in Prescott, Russell, Grenville, Carleton, Renfrew, Lanark, Pontiac, and other counties in the Ottawa valley. They have not been assisted by the department, and while there were only two seed cleaning plants in these counties in 1914, there are now fourteen. In a large seed-growing province like Saskatchewan there is one plant established at Moose Jaw, and I ask any hon. member interested in agriculture to say how this is going to be of any particular advantage to the different farmers throughout Saskatchewan. I leave it to hon. members on the other side. I know they will agree with me that this is simply a hand-out from the Department of Agriculture to a purely business and commercial interest. It is one of the examples of ruthless extravagance and political hand-outs on the part of this government. I say that in all fairness to the Minister of Agriculture, whose friendship I have always appreciated. I have never belonged to a cooperative association because they always had some sort of politics mixed up with them. I am a farmer, and I have spent a lot of my time down here. I am interested in cooperative organizations, in cooperative marketing and cooperative production, and I have much in common with every other farmer in this country, but I say that here is a sample of an unjustifiable hand-out, whether it goes to the farmers or

not. As I have pointed out we have fourteen seed cleaning plants in the Ottawa valley, for the establishment of which this government can take no credit. They are operated on a purely private basis and are a benefit to the districts all through the Ottawa valley. They have all the equipment which the minister will provide in this \$150,000 plant. They are provided with the clipper cleaner, the Marot grader, the Carter disc separator and all the equipment that you will find in any seed cleaning plant. The products of the registered seed growers' cooperative association of Saskatchewan come down through Ontario and Quebec and every other province of this Dominion. I have every respect for the seed growers of Saskatchewan and I should be glad to see them get every assistance possible, but it is not fair to the farmers of Saskatchewan or to the business interests of the rest of Canada for the minister to hand out \$150,000 to a purely commercial organization, and I ask the minister to correct me if I am wrong when I say that it is a purely commercial organization. There may be some five or six hundred farmers in that organization, but I know well that they paid their manager \$5,000 last year, and any organization that can pay their business manager \$5,000 a year does not need \$150,000 from this government. I say in all fairness to my fellow farmers from Saskatchewan that this is an absolutely unjustifiable hand-out, and of no particular benefit to the original producers of Saskatchewan. It seems to me that the minister could have used that \$150,000 to much better advantage if he had spent it like the Quebec government is doing. It grants a subsidy of 25 per cent for the establishment of seed cleaning plants all through that province. They have all the equipment that this \$150,000 plant has, but they touch vitally the farmers interested. This is a \$150,000 hand-out to the commercial interests of the seed grain trade of Canada. I know that the minister and his colleagues as well as members of both sides of the house are aware that the seed firms I have mentioned are in rebellion against this thing. It is absolutely unfair to the seed trade of the Dominion, and it is of very little benefit to our farmers. I buy hundreds of bushels of grain from Saskatchewan, not for seed but for feed. It is all very well to talk of this vote being for the benefit of the Saskatchewan farmers, but it is for the benefit of a commercial organization in Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): In reply to the statement of the hon. member I may be permitted to give an outline of the Saskatche-