

commission still stands absolutely clear with reference to the money it has spent. I may be wrong in that, but certainly every effort has been made to find anything that might be wrong. I wish I could give the committee the picture of the situation as I see it and as I have seen it for some time. Time has been limited; difficulties have seemed insurmountable. Attempts have been made to supply feed, and all the time they have been hoping that there would be rain, that feed could be grown, that the winter might be open and so on. I do not think we have had anything in Canada to compare with this situation.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think that was rather clever of the minister, but the fault was mine for leaving the opening for such a wandering answer. I should have nailed him down to something more specific. He evaded my question well, and I take my hat off to him for that. I will be more specific now. There is an agreement between this federal government and the Saskatchewan government—I will restrict it to Saskatchewan for simplicity. What is the maximum loan which can be given to Saskatchewan under that agreement for 1934?

Mr. DONNELLY: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If my hon. friend from Willow Bunch will permit me a moment, I should like to have my question answered first by the elusive minister.

Mr. BOWMAN: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No, Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend from Willow Bunch (Mr. Donnelly) kindly took his seat to allow the minister to answer my question and he should have the floor if the minister is not going to answer. I have the minister with his back to the wall and I want an answer.

Mr. BOWMAN: I was raising a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is this: No agreement between the province of Saskatchewan and the federal authorities has anything to do with the item before the committee, and I submit therefore that the hon. member for Melville is out of order.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That will suit me. I don't give a dash whether the discussion is choked off or not.

Mr. DONNELLY: I just wished to refer to one thing about which I interjected a remark when the minister was speaking. It is a well known fact—it was brought out in the Saskatchewan legislature last winter—

[Mr. R. Weir.]

that some hundreds of tons of hay were bought and were never shipped. They were burned in the fall.

There is another pest that we have in Saskatchewan and which I brought to the minister's attention last year. Information was sent out from his department about this pest, and I say that the information that was sent out was entirely wrong and caused our farmers the loss of hundreds of dollars last year. I saw many farms myself where the farmers lost hundreds of dollars through following the information sent out by the federal Department of Agriculture in reference to the cut worm.

The instructions given by the Department of Agriculture were that the farmers should not summer fallow until after the fifteenth of August, that if they did not touch their land until after the fifteenth of August a crust would form which would make it impossible for the moth to lay its eggs on the summer fallow, and that therefore there would be no cut worms the following year. I want to tell the minister that the farmers who followed those instructions, and I saw many who did, lost their seed, practically one hundred per cent of them, while those who did not follow those instructions but cultivated their summer fallow as in the past had no cut worms at all. Parts of a farm which had weeds were cultivated and those parts that were cultivated had no cut worms, while the parts that were not cultivated, following the instructions, had cut worms all over and the seed never came up.

The contention of the entomologists is that wherever the land is not touched, until after the fifteenth of August a crust will form and the moth will not be able to lay its eggs. But the result actually is this: if a crust does form, when it dries up, cracks appear in it and the moth lays its eggs in these cracks, and the cut worm is just as plentiful there as anywhere else. I know of farmers having quarter sections side by side. Those who followed the instructions of the department lost their seed, while those who did not follow the instructions but cultivated their land all the year had no cut worms at all. I draw this to the attention of the minister once more so that he may have his entomologists look into the matter, because the present instructions are costing many farmers all their seed, and they have to sow their seed all over again. That is true not only of one or two but of many, and they are generally our best farmers because it is our best farmers who take these pamphlets and try to follow the advice of the experts.