

Saskatchewan \$18,000,000, this is the reason—or at least one of the very flimsy reasons why Alberta should be discriminated against once more. The minister continues:

—although the crop acreage in that province is very much lower than the crop acreage in Saskatchewan.

Taking all three provinces—

And up to that time the minister had forgotten one.

—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the estimated amount would probably reach some \$48,000,000. . . .

And the minister should have made that \$25,000,000, because that is the estimate given by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning). I cannot see for the life of me why, when the Minister of Finance brings down his budget and mentions the sum of \$25,000,000, the Minister of Agriculture should raise it to \$48,000,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Wheat has gone up seven cents since.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): But the farmers won't get anything out of it, you can be sure, by the time they pay the interest on their bills. These poor farmers of Saskatchewan who have to pay \$120 for an appendix operation—well I would wonder how they would figure that in bushels of wheat. The minister continues:

What I wish to point out in that connection is this, that all of the area in western Canada which had a complete crop failure during this past year is in Saskatchewan. There are 80 municipalities in Saskatchewan that have an average crop of less than 6 bushels to the acre; more than half of these have an average crop of less than 4 bushels to the acre; the greater part of that half have an average crop of less than 3 bushels to the acre, and a number of them have no bushelage whatsoever. Yet, out of \$48,000,000—

And this is four times the minister has stressed the point.

—which will be paid out of the treasury of Canada this year, if this estimate is correct, only \$18,000,000 will go to Saskatchewan. . . .

It seems to me that I have laid before the Minister of Agriculture one of the main reasons why he is endeavouring to change this legislation. I would ask the minister how many municipalities there are in Alberta which have the acreage yields as given in his speech. How many municipalities in Manitoba have had those acreage yields? I have tried to find that out from the dominion bureau of statistics, and I could not get the information.

[Mr. C. E. Johnston.]

Mr. GARDINER: That is the best reason we have for going to Saskatchewan for the information.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I do not say that we should not go to Saskatchewan for the information. But why not take in other provinces as well?

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): They did not have the information.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The dominion should have it, and you could get it from the province. But as I understand it, there has been no request for it by the dominion government. There should be some arrangement whereby the acreage would be known from all the prairie provinces. According to the first bill introduced into this house, the Searle Grain Company in its issue of April 19, 1939, put out a map. Probably hon. members did not see it, but there was only about one-quarter of the area of Alberta that would come under that acreage bonus plan. I should say there was only one-quarter in comparison with what Saskatchewan would get. In Manitoba there was none. I doubt if the province of Alberta would have 135 municipalities that would come under this plan at all, and I am certainly positive Manitoba would not have.

Mr. GARDINER: It is townships, not municipalities.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): All right, "townships." I am quite sure Manitoba would not have any. In all fairness why should these other two provinces be forced to take southern Saskatchewan out of a relief condition, and why should these other provinces be taxed for that? I agree that the southern part of Saskatchewan should be taken out, and should be given an acreage bonus; by all means do that. But what advantage is there when you are going to substitute one form of relief for another, as the hon. member for Wood Mountain said a little while ago?

Mr. GARDINER: May I correct the hon. member? There were sixty-one municipal areas in Alberta this year with eight bushels or less per acre.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): And how many in Saskatchewan?

Mr. GARDINER: One hundred and ninety-eight.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): When I tried to get the information from the dominion bureau of statistics I could not get it.