

Supply—Agriculture

have been put into production if the government had had the foresight to undertake such a program through a national authority, which should cover the whole watershed of the Assiniboine down through the Qu'Appelle valley into Manitoba, lake Manitoba and lake Winnipeg, and up to the Nelson river.

I maintain such a project should be undertaken. I agree that the Minister of Agriculture is not alone responsible, but he is an important member of the cabinet. Apparently some of his colleagues do not seem to understand the situation but I am sure if he would explain it to them he would get their co-operation to do something along this line.

Finally, in my opinion it is most unfortunate that since 1945 the government has not seen fit to protect agriculture from the ups and downs, which it could well have done if it had had real vision so far as a comprehensive program for agriculture is concerned, a program to provide adequate parity prices for our farmers, adequate storage for surpluses and adequate trade policies by which farm commodities could be sold and our markets maintained.

I believe we have not nearly reached maximum agricultural production in Canada. When the government takes the problems of agriculture as seriously as it does, for example, those concerned with atomic energy and research in that field, and is prepared to spend money to help feed a hungry world, we will have the kind of program of which we can really be proud. We are not making a fight on the home front. Unless we can have an economy in Canada which is universal in its coverage and under which those engaged in agriculture as well as the industrial workers are protected, I think we will lose the important battle the free world is fighting to show the rest of the world that democracy is the best kind of system. The battle is not going to be won merely by vocal propaganda against other kinds of systems. It is going to be won when we can win men's minds. When we do that we will be able to say to the world that we have not only the best political system but also the best economic system, under which we can feed and clothe ourselves, use our resources and conserve them for posterity.

The resources given to us are under stewardship. They are given to us to maintain as stewards; but I maintain that in the past the government has handled them in such a way that they have been exploited and not conserved for the future. We are going to have to pay the price, unless the

[Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain).]

government is prepared to put forward a comprehensive program for agriculture by which we can really protect the people on our farms today and, indeed, our children's children.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the clause carry?

Mr. Argue: No, Mr. Chairman. Would you call it ten o'clock?

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted to do so, I should like to answer one question asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg South at the beginning. I was hopeful at the time he asked it that we might get into the items and I might be able to give an answer. I do not know that I can give a full answer to the question. All I can say is that legislation has been announced in *Votes and Proceedings* today which is intended to deal partially at least with the problem which the farmers are facing because of conditions that have arisen in Manitoba and the northeastern part of Saskatchewan.

I had hoped I might be able to get along some distance with the estimates and that we could have discussed that matter, but that has not been possible. I had intended to be away all next week, but on account of the way the discussion has gone on tonight I shall be back next Thursday and if at all possible will continue this discussion then.

Mr. Knowles: The session may be over.

Mr. Gardiner: In the meantime I will have a look at the area of the west that is in difficulties, and for the benefit of those who think we should know something about the United States may I say that I shall be meeting Mr. Ezra Benson, secretary of agriculture of the United States, at Regina, in the middle of the area where difficulties exist at the moment. If we get into the details of the estimates next Thursday we can probably have a better discussion than we might have had tonight. Nevertheless I hope that at the end of next week we will be in a little better humour to try to get along with them, rather than try to hold them up.

We have not accomplished very much tonight, but we have learned some things. I would just like to say to the last speaker that I hope when we take up the estimates again I will be able to prove to him that most of the things he had to say tonight are not in accordance with the facts. The main point which bears that out would require only a few words at this time. In the years that