

ditions that are stipulated. The board tells us when we can ship, and tells us that we cannot ship, let us say, until six months from the time of production, and we submit that the government or the board should finance the transaction. I put it directly, Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister: Is that not a fair assumption? Is it not an assumption that he as Minister of Agriculture might recommend to the board?

Mr. GARDINER: The assumption of anyone is that until the crop is pretty well assured and we are well on in the season in which it is picked, no one will be in a position to say whether there will be enough berries harvested to supply all the people in Canada. I should think, however, that those who are regulating the supply will see to it that a certain distribution is made in the sales of these berries by those who produce them. In other words, whatever proportion of the berries is taken will be taken from all the people. I would imagine that would be the case, and if that is the case then I presume that if ninety per cent of the berries are to be consumed in Canada, that ninety per cent of the money or value of them will be paid to those people as they go along. There may not be the necessity for financing in so far as day to day is concerned. I am under the impression—I may be wrong in this—that in all the sales that have been made in the past when there has been a surplus these costs have been taken into consideration when sales of these surpluses that come through have been made later to the British government. I would imagine that when the time comes to sell any surplus that may be in existence attention will again be given to that consideration, and I have no doubt that the matters which have been mentioned by the hon. member will be taken into consideration.

Mr. FAIR: The question of parity prices has been discussed to some extent to-night, and I am afraid that we are being led astray again because of the word "parity prices." I understand that the period 1926 to 1929 has been used as the base for computing those prices. If my understanding is correct, the farmers of Canada received 16.6 per cent of the national income during that period. At that time the farmers of Canada comprised about thirty-three per cent of the population. Therefore, one-third of the population of Canada received only one-sixth of the national income, and our prices are based on that. My belief is that if we are to figure parity prices as they should be, then we should

take the period 1915 to 1919 when we had much higher prices. At that time the farmers of Canada received a percentage of the national income in comparison with the farm population to the whole of Canada. I do not think we should be misled by having statements made that we are now getting parity prices or above. When we come to the period 1926 to 1940 we find that on the average the farmers received only 9.6 per cent of the national income, and when we get back to 1932 we find that the farmers of Canada received five per cent or one-twentieth of the national income, whereas we were entitled to one-third. I think these things ought to be taken into consideration when we are figuring parity prices.

Some hon. member across the way said that the farmers were now paying off their debts, and supposes that everything is O.K. I wish that that hon. member would look back at some of the legislation that has been wiped off the statute books of the western provinces. One such piece of legislation was debt-protective legislation, and the mortgage companies were turned loose and were taking very good advantage of the opportunities that were given to them by the removal of this debt-protective legislation. That is one of the reasons why farmers are paying off their mortgages. Another reason is that farmers are producing to the very limit at the present time. The condition of their buildings is going down, not up. Paint is needed. Their farm implements, in almost all cases, are wrecked, because they have not been able to buy machinery. If a true picture of conditions on the farm is given then we shall have an entirely different position presented here. I am quite free to admit that conditions are better on the farm to-day than they have been, but why compare prosperity conditions of the present day with depression conditions that existed particularly between 1930 and 1939? I think we should take into consideration some of the downfalls and pitfalls of the farmers of Canada before we make statements that everything is all right with them at the present time.

Mr. GARDINER: I have not said that everything is all right at the present time, nor have I compared prices with the prices of the drought period or of the depression period. I have made a comparison with the prices of 1926 and 1929, which were the years of the highest income that the farmers had ever obtained before the present period. At that time the highest cash income that the farmers ever had was \$1,063,000,000. That was in 1928. The greater part of that farm income