

Alberta we will soon give the \$25 a month. By the way we might bring that up in two or three minutes. Just listen to this:

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Bring it up of your own free will.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The Minister of Agriculture said this:

I should like to place before the committee information as to who has received the greater part of the bonus—

Did you get that?

—which has been paid, in order that we might have information upon which policy might be based for the handling of wheat in the future if we are going to give assistance of any kind to wheat growers.

During the last few months I have had prepared a statement of just what happened in relation to the bonus paid to date in one province, Saskatchewan—

Is there any sound reason why the minister should not have made a detailed study of the other two provinces, namely, Manitoba and Alberta? I think that would have been getting down to a business basis. Why take just the province of Saskatchewan? Surely it would not be because that was his own home constituency or his own home province? Surely it would not be because that is the province to which he intends to give assistance, to the detriment of the other two provinces?

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): It might have been where he got the most cooperation from local authorities.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It probably was. And that remark of the hon. member is exactly the kind of patronage and politics that we find in this matter. That is the unfortunate part of the whole situation. I am pleased to agree with that.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Not until I am through. Then you can get up and speak for your forty minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may not interrupt without the consent of the hon. member who is speaking.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am glad to agree with that. The minister continues:

During the last few months I have had prepared a statement of just what happened in relation to the bonus paid to date in one province, Saskatchewan, which is the largest wheat-producing province in the dominion, and of course the figures I have before me are of necessity still based upon estimates, but I think

the committee will realize that they are so close to what will actually happen that they can be taken as authentic.

It is estimated that Saskatchewan farmers will receive, at the rate of 20 cents a bushel, on the wheat they will market, a minimum of \$18,000,000 above the market value of the marketable surplus of wheat in the province in the year 1938-39 through the operation of the minimum price policy of the federal wheat board.

Let me repeat that. An average of 20 cents a bushel—

I wonder why emphasis was laid on that? Repetition for emphasis.

An average of 20 cents a bushel paid on all the marketable wheat in Saskatchewan will net to the farmers by way of bonus \$18,000,000. But if one were to estimate the net returns to the farmers of the three western provinces on the same basis of 20 cents a bushel, I am given to understand—

And this is just gossip, may I say. The minister does not say where he got the information.

Mr. GARDINER: From Alberta records.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Who was speaking?

Mr. GARDINER: One of the members of the Alberta legislature.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): And do you know who it was?—because I do. And a very—I was going to say a somewhat unreliable source.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Order.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): But, mind you, the point I am getting at is that this is the basis of establishing the price. Hon. members from this corner of the house have given facts and figures to show that the price is too low. Yet the Department of Agriculture puts up an argument such as this to make 60 cent wheat, and then it does not give any good reason for making it 70 cent wheat. He continues:

I am given to understand from a discussion which took place in the Alberta legislature the other day that Alberta would collect \$22,800,000—

Now, isn't that a shame—that the province of Alberta should collect \$22,800,000 and Saskatchewan only \$18,000,000! Certainly that is sufficient ground to see that Alberta does not get any more! The other day we gave Saskatchewan \$2,000,000—and I am not objecting to that in the least. But Alberta did not get it. And when it came to assisting in the distribution of vegetables in Saskatchewan, they got it again. Alberta was refused it—and yet because Alberta gets \$22,800,000 and