

ships happens to be in either one or the other then you can put in any nine sections that are contiguous to it or you can take up a half or three-quarters of a township and put it in. If there is not area round about it that is subject to drought then it is presumed that that area is submarginal land, and we are not supposed to pay anything on submarginal land.

Mr. ROSS: I would like to support Mr. Jutras in this matter. I know that in the wording of the Act with the officials in Manitoba that question has arisen in the past, and it might become a serious problem; and I hope that in amending the Act you will give consideration to this matter because it prevails in all parts of Manitoba where there are river lots.

Mr. FAIR: Mr. Chairman, the figures given by the minister showed that the farmers had contributed \$22,000,000 to this fund. Since the inception of the scheme we have drawn out a little over \$62,000,000. Some people have a habit of making a lot of these payments. That is one side of the argument. Let me point out that the farmers of the three prairie provinces and the Peace river block this year so far have contributed more than a dollar a bushel on every bushel of wheat delivered under the British agreement. That is so far this year. That, I think, will come off the \$40,000,000.

Right Hon. Mr. GARDINER: We do not think they have.

Mr. BENTLEY: Mr. Townley-Smith was speaking about a certain matter, and I would like to give a concrete example to support his suggestion that the minister give some consideration to this matter. Take the area lying in the apex of a triangle between Prelate and Leader which slopes around and makes a basin in the middle. Now, that basin is almost a Garden of Eden with rarely a crop failure and there are no floods to worry about. The fact is that they have a reasonably good crop nearly every year. However, there are bad years when these good sections usually bring the average for the whole country up higher than will allow for payments under the Act, and the result is that those on the slopes may be suffering badly. Because of the high average they are not eligible for payments because the Act says that there must be a rectangular block contiguous to an area which receives a benefit and that makes it difficult. Because of the particular geographical layout in that particular part of the country you make it almost impossible many times for them to have that contiguity, shall I say, that is necessary to come under the regulations. There must be other places similar to that, and I just mention that case.

Right Hon. Mr. GARDINER: There are scores of places like that; but as I said in the House the other night, there is only one way this can be dealt with and that is under insurance. Now, the provinces can take care of that or if the municipality does it it can deal with the individual farmers. All of our divisions are rectangular or square; there are no lines running any other way. We have no legal way of defining anything except around those squares. The same position taken with regard to the area applies to a farmer. The line as between his good land and his poor land sometimes runs in a diagonal direction across the farm or zigzags across it. We cannot deal with that. We have to say as far as the dominion government is concerned that we are taking care of our responsibilities by taking care of these large square blocks. We say to the municipal organizations and to the provinces: "If you want these corners taken care of other than by direct relief you have the authority to bring in an insurance plan to take care of them; but if you want P.F.A.A. to act you will be prepared to contribute so much money in order to have them taken care of as individuals by collecting from them or otherwise. We have no objection to administering it or to the farmers doing it and administering it; but we do not think the federal government should assume the responsibility for this whole problem. If the smaller areas are to be dealt with we think the province or the municipality concerned ought to do something about it."