

Mr. Stanbury: There appears to be no unusual difficulty in completing these forms and there has been no representation on any wide-scale basis for an extension of time. Perhaps hon. members will want to stimulate it, but I do not think it will be necessary. We will certainly keep our minds open—

Mr. Baldwin: That will be a change.

Mr. Stanbury:—so that citizens will have every opportunity to take advantage of the excellent benefits that are available under the new income tax law.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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AGRICULTURE

CROP DAMAGE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA—ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I think he knows the nature of the question. In light of the extraordinarily heavy incidence of damage sustained by thousands of farmers in northern British Columbia and Alberta as a result of unique weather conditions, is the government giving consideration to providing assistance over and above to what has already been announced in the form of cash acreage payments and protection against foreclosure in order to assist the farmers? I know the minister has been there and is aware of the very grave situation that exists.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Speech, speech!

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, after I say what we have done or intend to do, perhaps the applause will not be all that great.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: We have made the announcement that we are going to assist farmers in the transportation of the forage and feed that they need for their cattle. We will assist both British Columbia and Alberta with respect to those frozen out areas with vegetable crops, those areas which have suffered from drought, hail, rain and snow, with 50 per cent based on the grant that the provinces are going to give. We are going to give the farmers 50 per cent also. We announced this yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: I saw the announcement. That is why I asked the question.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I read the announcement the minister made. May I ask whether the amount of payment referred to in the statement has been decided upon after agreement with the two provinces, British Columbia and Alberta? Second, since it appears that the acreage payment is contingent upon those provinces

Oral Questions

making a payment, if they decide not to make an acreage payment will no payment be made?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am being presumptuous but, as a result of the proposal that was made by both the Minister of Agriculture of British Columbia and the Minister of Agriculture of Alberta, I feel quite sure that they are going to make payments. Our payments will be made according to the claim forms submitted by those people in those provinces to the provincial Minister of Agriculture in each province. We will work from that—how do you say it—

An hon. Member: Hypothesis.

Mr. Whelan:—that claim basis.

Mr. Gleave: Am I to take from the statement of the minister that he had not reached agreement with those provinces as to the amount of acreage payment to be made prior to making this announcement? Has he any agreement? Does he not know what they are going to do?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am pretty sure I know what they are going to do. They are going to make acreage payments, I think up to \$4 per acre, and we have agreed to make payments up to \$400 or 50 per cent of the payments that the provinces are going to make.

• (1150)

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary question.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there are to be further supplementaries, I will first recognize the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar and then go to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I return to the question I would like the minister to answer. Does he or does he not have an agreement with those two provinces as to the amount of the acreage payments that are going to be made?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we had proposals from them that were submitted to us for our consideration. We worked from the proposals that were made to us by each province.

CROP DAMAGE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA—ACTION TO FORESTALL FORECLOSURES BECAUSE OF FARM CREDIT CORPORATION LOANS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabaska): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the minister contemplating any action to forestall foreclosures in respect of Farm Credit Corporation loans and things of that nature?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my understanding, and I am quite sure it is right, is