

ings attended by 686 people, and seven persons were opposed. In Quebec 56 meetings with 1,690 signatures in favour. These figures indicate a total of 104 meetings attended by 3,889 people, and practically no opposition to the scheme.

Many people are under the impression that the marketing act sets out specifically what producers must do in connection with any scheme. That is not so, and I believe in the present instance we have a good example. The producers of eastern Canada found themselves up against very difficult conditions indeed, and without as much time as they should have had to bring into operation a scheme involving the wide territory and large number of individuals. They asked that we set up a provisional or temporary board to take action immediately. The only basis upon which we can estimate whether or not this procedure has worked out to the advantage of the producers is that of ascertaining the exact quantities of potatoes which were placed on the market before and after the scheme became effective. We would have to ascertain if there was any slowing up of volume being forwarded to market and the

price the producers received. I realize that the potatoes sold on the Montreal market would not show a fair return to the producers. The board was composed of producers and shippers who cooperated to give their best thought towards helping the potato growers out of a difficult position. In making a conservative estimate I believe one would be fair if he were to take as a standard the price received on the Montreal market for potatoes marketed in the normal crop year of 1932. Mark you, in that year there was nothing like the crop gathered last year, but to be fair I am accepting that year as a standard. Records indicate that with a much more difficult position than existed in 1932 the New Brunswick potato growers received in the last year \$30,400 more than in the year first named.

With the indulgence of the committee I believe I would do well to place on record figures showing comparative crops, because I realize hon. members wish to understand accurately the difficulties with which the farmers have been faced. For this purpose I shall give figures for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934.

Province—	1932	1933	1934
Prince Edward Island.. . . .	3,188,000	3,760,000	4,824,000
Nova Scotia.. . . .	2,122,000	1,866,000	2,453,000
New Brunswick.. . . .	3,856,000	5,394,000	6,938,000
Quebec.. . . .	11,475,000	13,444,000	14,244,000
Ontario.. . . .	9,516,000	10,112,000	11,830,000

Mr. VENIOT: Those are production figures?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes. The hon. member will note that the crop in Prince Edward Island was increased by more than 25 per cent and that in New Brunswick it was almost doubled. Although in the working out of the scheme there were difficulties encountered, as were bound to be encountered in setting up in a hurry a scheme that was felt by the producers to be necessary, I do not know but what the potato producers of eastern Canada received more for their potato crop in 1934 than they would have received had they not formed this eastern Canada potato marketing scheme.

Mr. VENIOT: Is the minister referring to the dealers or producers?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): To the producers.

Mr. VENIOT: What figure did they receive?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have not with me a record of what the producers did receive, but be that as it may, this is a scheme proposed

and carried out by the producers themselves together with the shippers and dealers that was felt by these men who were in the best position to judge, to be in their own interests. I can assure the hon. member for Gloucester that before the vote is taken every effort possible will be made to put the picture of this whole scheme and its results as clearly as possible before the producers.

Mr. VENIOT: Would the minister permit a suggestion?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I was going to follow that up, Mr. Chairman, by saying that if the hon. member for Gloucester has any suggestions to make in this connection because of his close touch with the situation we would appreciate it if he would make those suggestions known to us. I can assure him that they will certainly be given every consideration, because our whole endeavour is to put the picture as clearly as possible before the producers.

With reference to the point raised that truckers were able to sell under the pegged

[Mr. R. Weir.]