

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I am saying that it answers the argument of the hon. member for Moose Jaw.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): It says that any landlord to be eligible must have this application signed by the tenant before June 30. If it has not been made and signed before June 30, it cannot be decided by the minister or by anyone.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I take it for granted under the next section that if a man makes application and the tenant has not signed as a result of some dispute between a landlord and a farmer, or between two or more landlords, the minister has discretion to make payment to one or other of the parties or divide it between them.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): But the section says that a man is not eligible for payment at all unless this is done.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): In order to be a bona fide application, but if it is not signed the minister then steps into the picture.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): No; it cannot go in as an application until it is signed by the tenant.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suggest that the minister in order to escape the necessity of exercising the discretion as contained in section 7 adopt the long-standing practice of paying to the tenant the share that is his and taking the amount in dispute and, if the disputants will not reach a speedy agreement, pay the amount into court and let them interplead and pay the costs of settling who is entitled to the landlord's share.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Or ask the court for a declaration.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Section 7 allows the minister to determine who the landlord is if there is a dispute between two who claim to be landlords.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Or a dispute between landlord and tenant.

Mr. GARDINER: The landlord has to be admitted as such first.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): And he cannot get in unless he makes application signed by a tenant prior to June 30.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): He is not a landlord until that application is signed.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): That is right. Therefore there cannot be any dispute about that landlord because he is not there.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I take it that the application is not eligible for payment

unless signed by the tenant. But a man could make application to the municipal secretary even if the tenant refuses to sign. The application could be received, but would not be eligible for payment until either it is signed by the tenant or the minister makes a decision.

Mr. GARDINER: As it is now, a landlord to be eligible for any payment under this act shall make application not later than June 30, 1942, to the secretary of the municipality in which his land is located or, in the case of unorganized areas, to the provincial government. In practice, if the renter does not admit that this man is the landlord, the government just keeps the money until it is admitted. The only difference is that he may admit it after June 30.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In which event the landlord would get his share.

Mr. GARDINER: This simply says that the man must admit it before June 30; after that the government will pay the money to the renter, if that admission has not been made. As it is now, if the renter does not admit that the man is the landlord; if he says the man has nothing at all to do with the land, unless they go to court to settle it we just keep the money.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Then a landlord would have to take the tenant to court before June 30 to establish his rights?

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): That was what had to be done under the old section, but the new section says that the applicant, the landlord, must have the signature of the tenant prior to June 30.

Mr. GARDINER: We say that before we will pay we must have the signature of the renter. All we are saying now is that we must have that signature before June 30, or we will pay the money to the renter and let the landlord do his own collecting.

Mr. GRAHAM: If that date passes by and the landlord has not become eligible under the provisions of the act, he will have no claim; he is out of it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I suggest that the minister should give pretty careful attention to the representations which have been made pro and con, and that he should not have this section passed until there is some unanimity of opinion as to the construction of the section. I am impressed with the argument of the hon. member for Moose Jaw. In order that this payment may be made to the landlord there must be endorsed the acknowledgment of the tenant that the