

will remember that the hon. member for Humboldt asked that question definitely on Friday night. After delivering his speech he asked me how we were to proceed.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): After he had had his say.

Mr. GARDINER: I said that we would take up this item and discuss it and not wander all over the place. I will admit that that has been departed from by one speaker from the official opposition, two speakers from the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, the hon. member for North Battleford, and the hon. member from one other party who talked about the employment of labour in agriculture. After having gone over all that, I think we should call a halt and discuss the particular item that is before the committee.

Mr. PERLEY: There are about five or six administrators and three or four boards. If a general discussion is to be allowed on each one of those then we may say all we have to say in a general way for about five minutes on each one. If we do that it will not facilitate the passing of the estimates. Nor shall we be doing that by closing down the discussion as suggested at the moment. There are three or four other hon. members in the same position as myself. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that you call it six o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe that it is a matter of understanding among the hon. members of the committee. It is impossible for me to curtail the discussion. It is not my intention to do so at the present time, but there has been a great deal of repetition. I believe it is the wish of the committee that the discussion be curtailed to a large extent.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. PERLEY: Mr. Chairman, on Friday last the minister's war estimates were before the committee for only a short time before eleven o'clock. We did not get very far that evening. This afternoon there has been a general discussion on the first item, in conformity with the usual practice. Just before six o'clock the minister pointed out that he thought we had had enough general discussion, and should discuss the item in detail. All I have to say is that I think the minister was perhaps a little optimistic. I do not think his estimates will be held up very long, however, because I am sure that when the different

boards are under discussion in detail he will be prepared to give all information asked, and as a result possibly he will get through sooner than he expects.

I was interested when, just before six o'clock, the minister replied to the hon. member for Yorkton, placing on record the increase in the production of hogs, and a record of the slaughtering both in Canada and in the United States. I believe the information he gave showed that the increase was about the same in each case, a situation only to be expected. I trust that the minister clarified other conditions, such as the increase in the marketing of sows, to the satisfaction of the hon. member for Yorkton. If that hon. member is not practical enough to absorb what the minister has said, then there are one or two other members in his group who are practical farmers and who will be able to explain things to him.

The minister took some little time this afternoon to answer the hon. member for Haldimand and, to some extent, was complimentary in what he said about that hon. member. In my view the hon. member made a well-considered and constructive speech. It was, of course, critical in some respects, but constructively so. He made several suggestions whereby the operation of the different boards, and the department generally in respect of its war programme, might be made more efficient, so as to give the farmer a little better deal. The hon. member for Haldimand referred to increased production and increased prices, and also dealt with the farm labour problem, and the difficulty farmers have in securing machinery. It is clear that farming operations, in view of the shortage of labour, require more machinery under present conditions.

The hon. member made a point with respect to the cost of production, and showed how, even under present conditions, and despite increased production and increased prices, the farmer is hardly getting what is coming to him, and is not getting a fair share of the national income.

The minister endeavoured to answer what had been said by the hon. member for Haldimand, and, I was interested to note, to give credit to the farmers on this occasion. However, I can well remember another occasion to which the hon. member for Haldimand made reference. I can remember when the minister's estimates were before the committee before the Easter recess, upon which occasion the hon. member for Moose Jaw, the hon. member for Macdonald and the hon. member for Brant spent considerable time in eulogizing the minister, paying him compliments and giving him credit for the increased production, the increase in prices, and the apparent pros-