

*Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act*

Payments Act which appear necessary in the light of the experience gained during the last eight months.

In general the act has worked very well. Its purpose has been to provide for prairie farmers a cash advance on grain which, for reasons beyond the farmers' control, could not be delivered immediately to the elevators.

During the eight months in which the act has been in operation its value has been clearly demonstrated. Under this legislation 50,411 producers have secured cash advances. The total sum advanced is \$35,203,217. As of July 11, producers have refunded \$32,094,438 or 91.1 per cent of the money advanced. By provinces the figures are as follows. For Manitoba, 11,724 producers made application for loans; total amount advanced, \$7,112,441, of which they have refunded \$6,655,993 or 93.5 per cent. For Saskatchewan 28,792 producers made application for loans, total amount advanced, \$21,822,114; paid back, \$20,156,022 or 92.3 per cent. For Alberta, 9,895 producers made application for loans; total amount advanced \$6,268,662; total amount refunded \$5,282,423 or 84.2 per cent. As deliveries of grain continue during July the outstanding amount will be still further reduced and by July 31 it may be that all the advance will have been repaid.

That possibility has come about owing to increased exports and therefore increased marketings from the farms. Marketings are reflected in the quota position which is as follows: For Ontario there are two stations to which grain may be delivered; one is on the 7-bushel quota and one is closed. For Manitoba there are 376 stations; 202 are on the 7-bushel quota, 173 on the 6-bushel quota and one closed. In Saskatchewan, 1,101 stations; 277 on the 7-bushel quota, 774 on the 6-bushel quota, 42 on the 5-bushel quota and 8 closed. For Alberta, there are 588 stations; 179 on the 7-bushel quota, 383 on the 6-bushel quota, 4 on the 5-bushel quota and 22 closed. For British Columbia there are four stations which are on the 6-bushel quota. For all provinces there are 2,071 stations; 659 are on the 7-bushel quota, 1,334 on the 6-bushel quota, 46 on the 5-bushel quota and 32 closed. By July 31, the end of the crop year, there will be very few farms not on the 6-bushel delivery quota and more will be on the 7-bushel quota.

**Mr. Argue:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might ask the minister a question at that point. Does the minister feel that any other type of policy adopted by the government might have resulted in an equalization of quotas rather than some points at the end of the crop year being on a higher quota than others? I appreciate the good deliveries that are being made. This is not a criticism of the deliveries or the movement of grain.

**Mr. Churchill:** No. The matter was considered. Once you advance to a 7-bushel quota, then this question of equalization comes into the picture. But under the circumstances we thought that it would be wise to extend the quota position in order that those who could do so might benefit from it, particularly in view of the fact that the disparity is not very great. The number of stations still on the 5-bushel quota is only 46. Within the next few days they will either be on the 6-bushel or 7-bushel quota right across the prairies.

I have a few more statements to make, Mr. Speaker, which would take several minutes. Perhaps I should now move the adjournment of the debate.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Six o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Churchill the debate was adjourned.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask the government leader what the business is for tomorrow? Perhaps he would also tell the house what we will do on Friday and Saturday.

**Mr. Green:** Tomorrow we shall take estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce, followed by estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask what we will do on Friday and Saturday?

**Mr. Green:** I hardly expect to get both those departments through tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. However, during the evening I will think of something else to keep us busy on Friday and Saturday.

**Mr. Chevrier:** You have a good deal of legislation there that you might get through.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.