

them all. Of course, if I am asked to say to-night that there will be a floor price under any particular product, I could not do so, because I would be going far beyond what it is possible for me to say under the bill. The fact is that we are setting up a board to make recommendations to the government, and decisions, based upon those recommendations, are finally made by the governor in council.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Just to make it definitely sure—and I know the minister has been specific, but what he has said sounds almost too good to be true—I am wondering if this applies to any agricultural product, in either its natural or its processed state. That is, could the bill be used, for example, for the support of sugar, flour, starch, canned vegetables, canned fruits, bran, shorts, flax seed, various kinds of foods for animals, and all that kind of thing? Would they be included, in either their natural or their processed state?

Mr. GARDINER: I do not wish to start limiting the definition. It refers to any natural farm products. I said a few minutes ago that some question had arisen as to whether it would be wise to include products such as corn flakes. I would not like to say that it takes in every possible form of processed products. That is something we must leave to the judgment of the board, the advisory committee, and others, at the time a matter is being dealt with. I would not like to say definitely that it includes everything of that kind. But the intention is that all agricultural products, in all the forms in which they are generally sold, will be included, so long as they can be related to the fact that they were produced on the farm. They will come under this bill.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am particularly concerned about this question, because under section 9 (1) (c) we find this:

To pay to the producers of an agricultural product directly or through such agent as the board may determine. . . .

We will suppose that the bill applies both to a canning company that is canning beans and peas, and to the people who are producing those beans and peas to be canned. My question arises as to whether the primary producer or the processing producer would be paid.

Mr. GARDINER: There would be no payment made, except under conditions that the money advanced would go to the original producer. Take the case I mentioned this after-

noon, the cheese factories. Payment would be made in such a way that any subsidy paid would go to the farmers.

Mr. BLACKMORE: One reason why this will stand out in the minds of my constituents is that it reflects indirectly upon the beef question over which we had trouble in the spring. The producers of beef had the idea that purchases would be made directly from them, but as a matter of fact they were made from the packing companies, the processors of the beef, which was an entirely different matter. There are possibilities of great misunderstanding and unhappiness unless the whole matter is clarified.

Mr. BURTON: The minister stated that if coarse grains were desired the government could declare them as being under this legislation. They could bring butter in for a certain period, or barley, or apples, which the hon. member for Cumberland mentioned. All the commodities would not necessarily be under the bill for the same length of time; it would depend upon what the governor in council set for each commodity.

Mr. GARDINER: I did not catch the last part of the question.

Mr. BURTON: All commodities would not necessarily come under the bill for the same length of time.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not think there is any one in the house or any one outside the house who is interested in agriculture who has any intention of doing anything under this bill to bring down prices to the farmers. As long as the price is satisfactory, as long as conditions are such that a floor is not required, I do not think any one is going to suggest that we do something which might suggest to some one else that there should be less paid for that farm product. As has been stated right through, the duty of this board will be to study conditions existing now and conditions that exist during the transitional period. As long as the product is being sold, under whatever is the system of doing business, at a price which is either satisfactory or more than satisfactory to the farming community, there would be no necessity for the government to maintain a floor price. The different commodities will be studied at all times, and it is possible that in some areas there may be only one product under which it is necessary to put a floor, or there may be half a dozen. The recommendation will be made by the board as to the level at which the government should be