

The Address—Mr. Green

the east, and going into British Columbia, we desire to have all the ministers of agriculture present. The meeting is all arranged and information is being gathered, not only by federal officials but by the provincial officials right across the country. The federation of agriculture and the pools will be represented. They will all be here during the first week of December, and there will be a complete discussion of the requirements.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I agree with the leader of the opposition that the time is going to return—I am not a prophet and I am not in a position to say when, but I am just as sure as he is that it is going to return—when we are going to need markets other than the Canadian markets, and the market that we will be able to retain in the United States for our farm products. I agree with him, too, that when the time comes we shall again find that the best market available is the British market. The main reason we are not in the British market to the extent we might be at present is that everybody thinks it is the best market in the world. When everybody thinks that, they are right because after all there are fifty million people living in the British isles, and they are only able to produce a little more than 50 per cent of the food they require. There is one of the finest markets in the world for food products. Our advantage is that we are one of the nearest countries to Britain producing the kind of food they require, and we can produce it in very much greater quantities than we are producing it now.

Just as soon as we can be assured that over a period of one, two or three years we are going to be able to market products, I agree with those who say that we both provincially and federally ought to be out encouraging the farmers to produce much more than they are producing. I am sure when we are in a position to do that we can get better results than we are getting now. I hope it will be agreed that we have been giving some thought to the matter, and we have been making some arrangements to deal with it. We have changed our arrangements to meet changed conditions in different places, and I hope that before the end of this session we shall have a full report of what took place at the meeting in the first week of December.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): In the meantime, they are all hungry.

Mr. Gardiner: Some people have been hungry much longer than that. The difficulty is, of course, that even after you have produced the products in surplus, you have

trouble getting them distributed in the manner in which they ought to be distributed. In the meantime, everyone is doing the best job of that they can.

Mr. Graydon: May I ask the minister a question arising out of what he said? Is it his intention, when he is on his visit to Rome, to discuss with the United Kingdom government in London the matters to which he referred in the latter part of his speech?

Mr. Gardiner: From communications I have had, I understand that the minister of food and the minister of agriculture will be at Rome, and that is one of the reasons I shall be there. They are both new men. I hope to stop off in London on the way back to discuss the matter with others.

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): The hon. members of the house have had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of hearing two excellent and interesting addresses today dealing primarily with agricultural problems, and with our great province of Saskatchewan. This evening I am not in a position to follow up on those subjects, so I intend to speak on the subamendment which, as members know, deals with war veterans allowances. I should like, however, to add a word in support of the South Saskatchewan river project. During the present parliament my seatmate the member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) has been a strong and consistent advocate of that measure. In the last parliament my seatmate the late John R. MacNicol, who represented Toronto Davenport, was also an advocate of this plan. I am sure that if he had been here today he would have been greatly heartened by the speeches made by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner).

In the last few years British Columbia has been blessed with an influx of many thousands of people from the province of Saskatchewan. The main reason for the increase in our population figures in the recent census is that every city, town and village in British Columbia has received people from that great province of Saskatchewan. They have made and are making a fine contribution in all fields of endeavour in our province. They of course know of this South Saskatchewan project. It is therefore not entirely new to those of us who represent British Columbia in this house. With the leader of the opposition I hope it will be possible, during the year 1952, to have a start made with this project.

The subamendment moved by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) adds to the