

The Address—Mr. Wylie

year is a dry year; we have never known a wet year. The only difference is that one year may be a little drier than another, and this happens to be one of the driest years we have ever had. This year in that area thousands of acres will not be harvested; there is nothing on them to cut. Thousands of acres are averaging only from two to four bushels to the acre. Many farmers sowed 250 to 400 acres of wheat and did not thresh one bushel of grain. Those are the conditions that actually exist. The people of that district know we have the solution if only we will adopt it, but apparently those in charge are not so anxious to see some of our natural resources used or to have water put on our land. I was quite proud and happy to have the right hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in my constituency three times before the election—

Mr. Gardiner: And I shall be back three times more now that it is over.

Mr. Wylie: I assure the minister we shall be very glad to have him there at any time, as long as he leaves his promises at home, but we do want some action. Now I am going to read some short articles that appeared in the newspapers. Here is one dated May 2, from the *Calgary Albertan*, under the heading "Land purchase money in bank." It goes on to say:

The Liberal candidate for the Medicine Hat riding revealed Friday that \$2,350,000 is in the bank for purchase of Canada Land and Irrigation Company holdings.

The price includes a 200-mile canal system and an estimated 160,000 acres of company lands. The Liberal candidate said that if the price was accepted he had agriculture minister J. G. Gardiner's assurance that the Bow river irrigation scheme would be undertaken immediately and made available to farmers at \$10 per acre.

Then I have another short extract from the *Calgary Albertan* of May 9 under the heading "Irrigation company agrees to sell out." My only purpose in bringing these articles to the attention of the house at the present time is to show that these promises were made before the election on June 27 and nothing further has been heard of them since.

An hon. Member: Were you surprised?

Mr. Wylie: Not a bit. This is what the article states:

The Canada Land and Irrigation Company, owner of a large irrigation system south of the Bow river and between Calgary and Medicine Hat, has agreed to sell out to the dominion government, according to Right Hon. James G. Gardiner, federal Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Gardiner made the statement in a long distance telephone conversation with Harry Veiner of Brooks, Liberal candidate. He asked Mr. Veiner to arrange an appointment for him May 17 with D. W. Hays, general manager of the company.

[Mr. Wylie.]

Acceptance has been made in principle, while negotiations are needed to work out details of the agreement, said Mr. Gardiner.

Mr. Gardiner: No promise in that; it is just a statement of fact.

Mr. Wylie: Now I come to June 13 and something out of our local paper, getting right back home. The heading is "Gardiner backs irrigation deal," and the article states:

The audit and engineering investigation of Canada Land and Irrigation Company's assets and holdings on the Bow river extension has been completed, said agriculture minister James G. Gardiner here today.

"I have the copies of the report now," added Mr. Gardiner, in Medicine Hat to make two campaign addresses, one in Bow Island this afternoon, the other in the city tonight, in the interests of the Liberal candidate.

"The advisory committee of the PFRA viewed the project recently and is recommending it to the government. I am prepared to recommend it and back it."

Those are the minister's words.

The government, through Mr. Gardiner, offered to buy the company outright early in May. The offer was accepted by company directors and a written undertaking given that the company would sell. The Canadian cabinet has endorsed the agriculture minister's proposals.

Now that was on June 13, some time before the election. We are still waiting to hear what has happened.

Mr. Gardiner: Will you be surprised if it goes through?

Mr. Wylie: I shall be glad; I hope it does.

Mr. Quelch: Will the minister be surprised?

Mr. Wylie: Probably he would.

This article continues as follows:

Plans are developed for a big political rally in the city tonight, starting with what has been called a Gardiner-Veiner victory parade. This will move off from a point by Cory Implements, south of Railway street, at 7 p.m., and will cover all downtown streets, ending at the Empress theatre at eight o'clock.

The parade will feature some of the Dailey Bros. circus menagerie, in the city today, and the sixteen-horse hitch circus calliope. There will be floats, decorated cars and decorated bicycles.

May I say this, Mr. Speaker, that there was no parade with any part of the circus and the people of Medicine Hat were disappointed that evening, as the minister will recall. This parade was advertised over the radio for a week. That night the ladies rushed through doing the dishes and got the children ready to go down to see this circus parade. What happened? When they arrived on the scene they found the only parade was the right hon. the Minister of Agriculture and the Liberal candidate riding in the first car, with a few of their friends in two or three cars behind them. The people returned home disgusted and I do not blame them.