

There is little corn grown in western Canada, and practically none for cattle fodder. Provincial governments are requesting producers to plant oats for grain feed if their hay production looks as if it may be inadequate for winter feeding. Oats grow well in northern Canada.

Lastly, the honourable senator asked: Can we predict what ranchers will do with respect to the production of beef cattle, and what is the prospect for prices in these commodities for the Canadian consumer?

The government would not want to see the ranchers lose their basic breeding herds, and will be considering measures to ensure that there will be no particular glut on the market.

Senator Flynn: What are the prospects for rain?

Senator Langlois: Let us pray.

Senator Perrault: I have no report on the precipitation situation from Environment Canada, but I think all of us should hope and pray for rain in those areas that are affected by this drought condition.

Senator Smith (Colchester): I should like to ask the Leader of the Government if the only policy of the government in this very serious crisis is to pray for rain.

Senator Flynn: They always pray.

Senator Perrault: Perhaps, as has been said, people and government should work as if everything depended on them, and pray as though everything depended upon God!

Senator Smith (Colchester): Does the Leader of the Government not know that it is only the prayers of the righteous that avail?

Senator Walker: Also, faith without good works is dead.

ROYAL EMBLEMS

REMOVAL OF CROWN FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PRIVATE RAILWAY CARS—QUESTION ANSWERED

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I have a reply to another question. The Honourable Senator Forsey asked—

Senator Flynn: About the painting of rail cars.

Senator Perrault: Yes. The honourable Leader of the Opposition possesses total recall. The question was: I should like to ask whether there is any truth in the story, of which I was credibly informed this morning, that the Crown on the side of the Governor General's private railway cars has been painted out or painted over.

The answer to that question is: Transport Canada was advised November 4, 1976, that His Excellency the Governor General would not be using the cars during the remaining years of his term. No savings could be made by laying up the cars and it was decided instead to make the cars available for users numbering eight or more.

It was considered inappropriate under the circumstances to leave the Crown on the car and, while the cars were next in

Montreal for maintenance, the Crown was painted over for this interim period only.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROPS BILL

SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Molgat, seconded by the Honourable Senator Goldenberg, for the second reading of the Bill C-2, intituled: "An Act to facilitate the making of advance payments for crops".—(*Honourable Senator Argue*).

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, with respect to the first item on the Orders of the Day I would say that I had a conversation this afternoon with the Honourable Senator Argue, who has been delayed in western Canada and is not able to be present this evening. Senator Argue urges that we proceed with the second reading debate on Bill C-2.

Senator Flynn: Do you mean to put the question?

Senator Molgat: No, the question has been put. I would be closing the debate if I proceed now.

The Hon. the Speaker: I would inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Molgat speaks now his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on second reading of Bill C-2.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: Honourable senators, first of all, I thank those honourable senators who participated in this debate. I shall endeavour to cover some of the points that were raised.

Senator Macdonald, in speaking on the bill, adequately covered some of the problem areas—and I recognize them as being problem areas. He mentioned in particular the definition of "significant portion of the crop" and how that should be determined. While recognizing that this would be included in the regulations, he made the point that honourable senators on many occasions have objected to bills which leave matters to be dealt with by way of regulation.

The difficulty in the present situation is that it is not easy to foretell at this time how much use will be made of the legislation, and what the producer organizations themselves might wish to have included in the regulations. It is understood—and I repeat this point, which I made in my introductory speech—that it is definitely the intention of the department to have discussions with producer groups prior to bringing the regulations into force. They will have an opportunity to voice their own views with respect to "significant portion" and any other matters in the regulations. That is a commitment on the part of the department, and I am satisfied that it will be carried out. In the circumstances, because of uncertainty as to the type of regulations necessary, I believe it is the best manner in which to proceed.

A further question was asked by Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) who, in the first part, asked whether there was to be any service provided by the producer organization. It is my understanding that there is no obligation to provide service, but it