

only one I can recall. Tenders have been called for through public advertisement in the press, and the tender of each tenderer has been considered. Unless there has been some special reason to the contrary, the job has always gone to the lowest public tenderer.

Mr. BENNETT: From my standpoint that is satisfactory. On the second point I would like the assurance of the minister, if he can give it, that a similar clause to that appearing in Department of Labour contracts should appear in these contracts. I believe that would be desirable, because it would prevent trouble for the department itself and for Mr. Spence. I believe it would be helpful to everybody, and would restore a measure of confidence; because, I must say that if I brought down the letters I have in connection with the administration of relief, for which the minister says Saskatchewan is wholly responsible, I think he would be somewhat surprised. Some of them are pathetic in their descriptions of what they were compelled to do in recent weeks. I should like, if possible, to avoid bringing that information down, and if we could have an assurance that a clause similar to that placed in labour contracts providing against discrimination, will appear in these contracts, I believe it would be satisfactory. I think the clause refers to political and religious belief.

Mr. ROGERS: Race, religious or political belief.

Mr. BENNETT: I believe that is right. My mind was somewhat confused as to the exact words, but I knew they were to that effect. If some such clause were inserted, I believe it would serve an extremely useful purpose in restoring some measure of confidence, because we must realize that three and a half million dollars is a great deal of money.

Mr. GARDINER: There can be no objection to inserting it. Of course in the contracts which are only half way through—

Mr. BENNETT: I understand that.

Mr. GARDINER: —we may not be able to change the wording. But I have no objection to accepting the suggestion, and will give the assurance that it will be carried out.

Mr. HANSELL: With regard to the proposed irrigation project at Enchant, Alberta, many hopes were raised in the people's minds. Evidently the project was quite agreeable to the rehabilitation officer at Regina; but, eventually, as the minister is aware, the scheme was turned down. I believe the only reason why the project was turned down was that the water rates from the irrigation com-

pany were high. I believe the farmers are prepared to pay that sum, and would ask the minister to reconsider the matter.

Mr. GARDINER: The Enchant area is alongside an area now irrigated by the Canada Land and Irrigation people. There are farmers in that district who have been dry farming, and my memory is that at one time they had an opportunity of joining the Canada Land and Irrigation project. I have not the details before me, but I know that the question of providing them with water from the Canada Land and Irrigation ditch was reviewed. Arrangements had gone so far as to have the contract prepared to supply water to these people a year ago. But that contract provided for water at a cost of \$2.95 an acre, and all the advice we can get is to the effect that a farmer cannot succeed in farming land carrying a water cost of \$2.95 an acre. It is all very well for a farmer to come along and say to the Canadian government, "You put the water in, anyway; we will be prepared to pay that rate." But if we were to take the responsibility of developing a project to put in water, knowing that the farmer would have to pay the rate, I believe we would be assuming a responsibility which we should not assume. We have said to them simply that we think a new plan should be worked out, and that it should be possible for them to secure water from that ditch at a cost lower than the charge proposed.

Mr. HANSELL: Was the figure of \$2.95 the latest one given?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes; that is the figure in the contract which came to me for signature. That was the last contract I saw.

There is this further fact to be considered: The government has already put \$70,000 on one occasion and \$80,000 on another occasion into making water available to the Canada Land and Irrigation Company itself. We spent \$80,000 two years ago to put in a flume. If the flume had not been put in, we were told that even the Canada Land and Irrigation people would have been without water. If there were slackness at any time, then I say it was on our part at that time for not securing an undertaking from the Canada Land and Irrigation Company to the effect that when we required water, as a result of that expenditure of money we would get it at special rates. I have indicated to the Canada Land and Irrigation Company that if they expect further assistance from the government of Canada in connection with these activ-