

are found to be more adaptable. I have in mind the drought area east of Hanna. In a large part of that area the practice of summer-fallowing land has been discontinued as being unsafe. If you cultivate land and allow it to lie fallow during the year, it drifts too badly, and many farmers have found it to be safer just to allow the land to lie fallow all year without cultivating and then to use a combine tiller to sow the wheat into the Russian thistle. By that means they stop the soil drifting.

Will it be considered summer-fallowing under the legislation if no cultivating is done? If the interpretation of this clause is to rest with the special areas board, I feel sure they will rule that it should be considered as summer-fallowing. If, on the other hand, the government is going to take the stand that it is not summer-fallowing, the result will be that tremendous areas in the drought area will be cultivated in order to get this \$4 an acre. The whole area will be turned into a dust-bowl. It has taken years and years to get this area back into grass and weeds in order to stop the soil drifting. In many districts the average yield is only six bushels to the acre, and the farmers will be able to make money by just cultivating the land and not sowing wheat in order to get the \$4 an acre. There will be a real danger if these farmers have to cultivate the land in any shape or form. I hope the interpretation of this clause will rest with the municipal officers or with the special areas board. I am satisfied that in that event they will consider land lying fallow without being cultivated as summer-fallow.

Mr. GARDINER: In Alberta some areas are organized into municipalities, and others have been disorganized and put under the special areas board. There is other land, referred to as L.I.D., which has never been organized into municipalities. The plan we intend to follow is to ask the municipal council, in the case of an organized municipality, to act in connection with applications and the passing on of information to the Department of Agriculture and the deciding as to whether or not the matter is being carried out all right. In so far as the special areas are concerned, this work will be carried out by the special areas board. In the case of the L.I.D. in Alberta, the work will be carried out by the department of municipal affairs. I think the same thing is true of Saskatchewan and, if I am correctly informed, of Manitoba. That is, we shall work through the department which has been entrusted with the administration of the particular areas in the province or the municipality, as the case may be.

[Mr. Quelch.]

As to determining whether or not work being done can properly be termed summer-fallowing, we shall have a double check on this. In the first place, we shall have the special areas board in the particular district and, second, we shall have the results of the activities of the illustration station or experimental farm in the vicinity. They will have been giving advice which will have been followed by those who are operating this land, particularly where they are operating under the direction of the special areas board. What is considered to be the proper practice there will be admitted as the proper practice. For example, in the southern section we have the farm at Scott, which is just across the boundary line out of Alberta in Saskatchewan. The officials of that farm will have given instructions as to the proper method to be followed in that particular area.

Any practice which is adopted by the experimental farm officials as being the proper practice in farming will in all probability be acceptable to those who are administering this legislation. It is not the intention to drive this matter to the limit of insisting that people should farm in an expert manner. The main intention at the moment is to reduce wheat acreage and at the same time have the farmer so operate his land that it will be in position to produce a crop when we require it, which may be next year or the year following.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I know of some farms in southwestern Manitoba which have been entirely idle during the drought years. For instance, in 1939 and 1940 they produced no crops and were not cultivated. If an operator moved on to one of those farms and decided to sow some acreage in wheat, I suppose he would not be allowed to deliver any wheat if he did not have a permit for last year and it had not been cultivated in the last two years.

Mr. GARDINER: In so far as the delivery of wheat is concerned, these regulations would not affect that at all; that would come under the wheat board act. I doubt very much if the wheat board would accept delivery from that type of land. I doubt also if we would pay anything to any one to encourage him to start to operate the land. Our whole objective under these regulations is to get wheat land out of cultivation, not to put land back into cultivation.

Mr. WEIR: As I understand it, the minister plans, after the discussion on these regulations this afternoon and this evening, to bring them back to the committee in a revised form. At this time I should like to inquire of the