

bill with respect to the marketing of wheat this year, or will it be done by order in council?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): There is no intention of introducing any special bill.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, February 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. W. E. Harris (Grey-Bruce) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Graydon, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in the discussion of the motion which was so ably moved by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, and seconded by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Hallé). I wish to join with all those who have spoken before me, and, I am sure, with all those who will speak after me, in expressing my own appreciation, and that of the people I represent in this house, of the clear and able manner in which those hon. gentlemen presented to the house their views on matters having to do with the carrying on of the most important task of this nation at the present time, namely, the prosecution of the war.

I rise this afternoon to answer the suggestion made in the amendment moved by the official opposition rather than to discuss the speech from the throne generally or to debate at length the amendment to the amendment moved by the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation group (Mr. Coldwell). My reason for stating that at this time is that a part of the amendment proposed by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) is to all intents and purposes a motion of want of confidence in the government, and particularly in the administration of the Department of Agriculture. Since this is the first opportunity that a minister has had to reply, I wish to confine my remarks largely to the part of that amendment which has to do with agriculture.

The criticisms which have been made by speakers in different parts of the house during the discussions have had some reference to matters which were dealt with a few moments ago by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley). Since a statement has been made covering those matters it is not my intention to go into them, other than to say that the line of

delineation of responsibility which has been indicated emphasizes the necessity of the Department of Agriculture giving even greater consideration from now on to the matter of production than has been given in the years since the war began.

The criticisms which have been made with regard to matters of policy have had to do largely with questions of production. Running through the speeches that have been made, there has been a suggestion of shortage in production of farm products. It will have been noted that in his statement the Minister of Finance refers to distribution shortages rather than to production shortages. I should like to put in another clause what we are usually referring to when we in this house and others outside the house speak of shortages. The clause I would rather use is this, that requirements for food increases have grown faster than production. There has not been a shortage of production in this country, nor has there been a shortage in the sense in which we speak of shortages in peace time. Whenever we have had sufficient production of any commodity in Canada to permit of exports we have always spoken of having surpluses. We have greater surpluses of farm products in Canada in that sense at the present time than we have ever had. It is scarcely correct, therefore, to say that we have food shortages in Canada.

I think a warning should be thrown out in regard to this matter for another reason. The amendment proposed by the leader of the opposition reads:

That the following words be added to the address:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house regrets that Your Excellency's advisers have failed:

(c) to provide adequate measures whereby Canadian agriculture can make its maximum war contribution and receive a fair share of the national income.

I have before me an important publication known as *The Statist*, which is widely read throughout the English-speaking world and which is considered to be an authority on matters relating to production in the different parts of the English-speaking world. I should like to throw out a warning to hon. members as well as to publishers in Canada as to the effect of the kind of discussion we sometime carry on has upon those who are thinking of our position outside of Canada. The heading of this article is: "Anti-Inflation Measures in Canada," and the writer states:

But apart from wheat there is little surplus farm production and the people of Canada have, for instance, been asked to eat less bacon so that more can be shipped to Great Britain.