

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

bonus on seeded acreage in southern Saskatchewan. That was discussed recently in the house under a resolution introduced by the hon. member for Assiniboia. The speech made on that occasion by the Minister of Agriculture concluded as follows:

This is the greatest problem that agriculture has ever faced, and it must be met directly. As I see it, a final adjustment will be made towards the end of the present fiscal year. At that time the provinces will be in a position to give this government their true financial positions and state the commitments which they can undertake in the carrying on of this work. Serious consideration will be given to this problem.

That is the problem of the proposed dollar an acre on a seeded acreage basis.

This government will do everything possible to give the most generous treatment. The farmers of western Canada have assurance in the treatment they have received up to the present time.

That is the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture on February 18, and as we are now within a couple of hours of the end of the fiscal year, the time has come when we expect a more definite statement from him with regard to that important question. As he is not present, I do not see how I am going to get an answer. The Prime Minister is not here; the Minister of Trade and Commerce is not here. To whom am I to address my remarks?

Mr. BOWMAN: From what page of Hansard was the hon. member quoting?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Page 345 of Hansard of February 18. There is not much use in my proceeding. I do not want to repeat my remarks after the hon. gentleman come in, and I do not want to remain standing here. Will the Minister of Railways or the Minister of Justice come to my assistance? Is the Minister of Justice in a position to answer this question?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The only observation I would make in regard to the matter is that the subject is rather out of order, and the quotation from Hansard is likewise out of order. It is not according to the rules of the house to refer to what has taken place in a previous debate during the same session. This matter was discussed in a previous debate and it is not a subject at present before the committee. Personally I am not familiar with the matter.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is strange how this rule will always be invoked when the government has no answer. I have the misfortune in always having it invoked against

[Mr. Motherwell.]

myself, although Hansard has been quoted from interminably this session.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Anything said in this debate may be quoted.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is the same question.

Mr. GUTHRIE: It was debated before and the debate was concluded.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The Minister of Agriculture indicated that a final adjustment would be made towards the end of the present fiscal year. Therefore this is the opportune time, and I do not see how my hon. friend can declare my question out of order. We are now within two hours of the expiry of the fiscal year.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Then my hon. friend has allowed the opportunity to pass. We are now on another question and another bill. The point I raise, not to embarrass or inconvenience my hon. friend, is that this was the subject of a previous and concluded debate in the house.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend feels more embarrassed at the ministers being absent than I am at his objections; I can wait until another time.

Let me introduce another question, and I shall not read from Hansard; I know it fairly well. On July 1 of last year the Prime Minister made a very impressive speech with regard to the national calamity that had befallen certain parts of the prairie west. At that time nobody ever dreamed that the proposed relief measure which we have been discussing here intermittently during the last month, would be transformed or converted into a loaning measure to be operated by the Saskatchewan government and relief commission with moneys supplied by this government. I should like to know what individuals are to-day responsible for the relief that was anticipated in the west being converted into a loaning policy administered by a commission on behalf of the Saskatchewan government with funds practically all supplied by the federal government. It is now a straight loaning policy under ghastly exacting conditions; I have never before seen such oppressive conditions as are those outlined in a bill recently introduced and, I think, passed in the Saskatchewan legislature. I believe I have a right, as one representing a portion of that dried-out area, to protect my constituents from the extortionate conditions that are laid down in that bill with respect to the return of those