

Wheat Acreage Reduction Act

last year than the year before. Probably what would give it as nearly as we can get to it is the acreage upon which payments have been made up to date. The figures are:

Saskatchewan	Acres
Coarse grains.....	2,716,029
Grass	134,144
Rye	159,039
Summer-fallow	1,653,190

Total upon which payment
has been made..... 4,662,402

Manitoba	
Coarse grains.....	1,000,591
Grass	90,228
Rye	18,967
Summer-fallow	367,121
	1,476,907

Alberta	
Coarse grains.....	1,424,678
Grass	119,612
Rye	73,443
Summer-fallow	927,708
	2,545,441

The grand total is:

	Acres
Coarse grains.....	5,141,298
Grass	343,984
Rye	251,449
Summer-fallow	2,948,019

Total..... 8,684,750

That is what is paid on up to date, and there will still be something like \$1,300,000 to be paid out.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Then the wheat acreage has been reduced by something over 8,000,000 acres?

Mr. GARDINER: The wheat acreage reduction is 8,684,000 acres, based on the actual 1940 acreage. It was about seven million last year, based on the actual 1940 acreage, so that it is up about a million and a half acres.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I am not sure this is the place to raise the question, but in view of the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce to-day, and the fact that there has been a growing interest in the west in getting farmers out of wheat and into the production of crops that will produce edible oils, could we have some statement from the minister in regard to this matter. A great many farmers are anxious to know where they can get sunflower and rape seed, and are interested in getting some information about putting it in and what facilities there will be for disposing of it. In my own constituency there was a great deal of interest in the experiment carried on by the hon. member for Moose Jaw, who I understand was very successful in

[Mr. Gardiner.]

growing sunflower seed. If the minister or the hon. member for Moose Jaw has any information it would be a good thing to give it to the committee and to the farmers of the west.

Mr. GARDINER: I think the information is really given in the statement that was made, as the hon. member will see when he reads it in *Hansard*. Under the regulations the wheat board is given authority by the various departments concerned, and directly by the government, to go out and purchase these different kinds of seeds. Then provision is being made for the agricultural supplies board to take a hand in the distribution of the seed. I imagine that the wheat board will make provision for buying the seed at certain points where it is to be had, across Canada; the seed will be accumulated, and people will be able to purchase it back either from the wheat board or from the agricultural supplies board. In any case the set-up will have to be formulated, and information will be put out indicating exactly where the seed is, how much there is, what will be the price, and all that sort of thing.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Do I understand that there are special combines for taking off the sunflower seed?

Mr. GARDINER: I think the hon. member for Moose Jaw can tell you more about that than I can, because he harvested a crop of sunflower seed last year.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): In reply to the hon. member for Weyburn, it might be well to give some information in regard to the growing of these crops, and I need take only a few moments to do so.

Sunflowers are sown by an ordinary seed drill, the ordinary grain drill that is used by farmers throughout the west and the east, by plugging up a certain number of the feeder holes in the drill. The rows are seeded either thirty-six or forty-two inches apart, as the farmer may desire. The seed in the row should be sown from four to six inches apart; that is, the seed should be dropped so that the plants will be four to six inches apart. The land is prepared just as for any coarse grain or for wheat; just a good seed bed. Packing after seeding is a good practice. The seed should be sown about one and a half to two and a half inches deep in the ground. It can be sown any time after the frost is out of the ground, but preferably in the first two or three weeks of May. After the crop comes into the four leaf stage it can be harrowed. It should not be touched until the plant has a good root and is fairly strong; then it can be harrowed