

Minister of Agriculture, I am proud to say, has done his utmost to come to the rescue of our eastern farmers, among whom of course I include the farmers of Quebec. So far as dairy products are concerned, as this committee knows, the minister has taken steps to utilize the surplus butter in Canada by distributing it to poor people and those on relief. This question of cheese is also a vital matter to our farmers, and I should be glad if at the first opportunity a change could be brought about in what the minister has already done in connection with paying a premium on certain grades of cheese. If my understanding is correct, there is a two cent premium on grade 1A and a one cent premium on grade 1B. I want to ask the minister and the government, after they have had experience with this legislation, to go further and give a premium of one cent on grade 1C. As hon. members know, grades A and B are very difficult to produce, and because of that only a few hundred pounds of these grades are put on the market. I know it is the intention of the minister to help the eastern farmer as he has so ably helped the farmers of the west, in which course we in the east have gladly supported him both in the past and at this session.

Some hon. members opposite have spoken of their goodwill towards the east. Well, the east has always shown its goodwill towards the west, and we are ready to continue in that spirit of cooperation. I am sure hon. members from the west will not only agree that the east should have something, but insist that the Minister of Agriculture help eastern farmers a little more. I know the farmers in my constituency are pleased to see that something has been done for the butter producers. Irrespective of party allegiance, we receive letters of satisfaction. The action the minister has taken will be an encouragement to everybody, and I presume it will be an example to the premier of Quebec who, in 1936, promised a premium to the butter and cheese industry. However, on account of the many difficulties he has encountered, it would seem that he has forgotten to carry out his promise.

May I congratulate the federal Minister of Agriculture upon setting such a good example to the premier of Quebec. I am convinced that the premier, who is an intelligent citizen of our province, and a good Tory—among the Tories there are intelligent people—would do well to follow the example given by the minister in Ottawa. It is because I believe that Mr. Duplessis is an intelligent man that I am sure he will soon follow the

example of the Minister of Agriculture in the federal government, and give a premium on dairy products.

Mr. TUSTIN: As I understand it, this is a cooperative and voluntary scheme. When a certain number of producers have signified their intention of cooperating, it would seem the minister will say whether or not arrangements shall be entered into. If the minister decides that 75 per cent of the producers of a certain commodity in a certain area is a sufficient number to ask him to put a cooperative marketing scheme into effect, in what position are the other 25 per cent of the producers? Do they come under this marketing legislation, or have they the right to market their own products?

Mr. GARDINER: There is nothing in the bill permitting the minister or anyone else to compel the other 25 per cent to come in. They would be brought in only as a result of the activities of the cooperative being successful. They would come in voluntarily, of their own free will.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE

##### PERCENTAGE DEDUCTION FROM GRAINS MARKETED IN SPRING WHEAT AREA—PROVISION FOR ACREAGE PAYMENT

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of Bill No. 83, to assist agriculture in the prairie provinces.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I believe it was agreed yesterday in the house that when we reached Bill No. 83, considerable latitude would be given in a discussion of the whole wheat question. It was understood, as a matter of fact, that we might discuss the matter in relation to the bill with which we have already dealt, as well as in relation to Bill No. 63. In view of that fact I believe I should express certain views with regard to the legislation, and perhaps do so more extensively than I did when discussing Bills 82 and 89.

I think it advisable that in the first place we have a historical sketch of the activities in connection with the growing of wheat in western Canada, as well as a short historical sketch of the different methods of marketing which have been followed. The hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Miss Macphail) stated a few moments ago that western Canada had to some extent been responsible for putting other parts of Canada out of the wheat growing business. I think all hon. members realize the truth of that statement. Wheat growing