

Minister of Agriculture. I am not going to continue that argument. There were newspaper reports to the effect that the minister had made a definite promise that an interim payment would be made.

Mr. GARDINER: No, there were no such reports.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I said there were newspaper reports to that effect.

Mr. GARDINER: The newspaper reports said I promised that I would recommend it.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Oh, no. I do not want to get into an argument, but the statement was in the press.

Mr. GARDINER: Read it carefully and you will see.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): This is from the *Star-Phoenix* of Thursday, March 21, reporting the minister's address at Wilkie:

Definite promise of amending legislation to provide for a 10 or 12 cent interim payment on the current year's wheat crop was made here Wednesday afternoon by Hon. J. G. Gardiner. The Minister of Agriculture declared that if the King administration was returned to power the present bill would be changed so that a payment might be made as soon as possible.

Mr. GARDINER: What is that from?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): That is from the *Star-Phoenix*. I will send it over to the minister. But I did not rise to quarrel over what the minister said or did not say. I want to refer to what the minister said the other night in this house. He said he did not make the remark quoted in the newspaper, and I accept his word. He stated that he said he would recommend to the government an amendment to the act which would permit the making of an interim payment if conditions warranted it.

Mr. GARDINER: That is what I did say.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Very well. Has the minister made that recommendation?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): If the minister has made that recommendation, when may we expect the amendment?

Mr. GARDINER: I cannot answer that.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): If we are not going to get the amendment, it must mean that the government has not accepted the minister's recommendation; and I say to him that as a responsible minister of the crown, in fairness to the people of Saskatchewan he ought to resign from this government in protest.

Mr. GARDINER: The whole of the time has not elapsed as yet, you know.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): As the act stands at present no interim payment can be made, since the act provides that all the wheat must be sold and all the money received before a further payment can be made. I hope the government will bring down legislation to permit the making of an interim payment because, as most western members know, many farmers, on account of financial stringency, were not able to put in as large a crop this spring as they have in other years. Every day I receive letters from farmers whose financial position is such that they cannot do their usual summer-fallowing. They have not supplies; they have not repairs to their machinery. If this payment could be made at this time it would help these people do the summer-fallowing they will be unable to do otherwise, and will permit them to keep their land in the shape in which they usually keep it. Therefore I ask the government to make some statement, to tell these people whether they are or are not going to get this payment, rather than keep them in a continual state of suspense.

Third, I want to ask this government what their policy is with reference to the marketing of the 1940 crop. We are only forty days away from cutting in western Canada. The farmers want to know what facilities there will be for the marketing of their crop and what price they will receive for it. Are we going to continue the old three-way method of marketing? Is the 70 cent initial guaranteed price to be what the farmer will receive if he delivers his wheat to the wheat board? Surely the government ought to tell the farmers now, and not continue to say, day after day, that the matter is still under consideration. We have had no hesitation at all in saying where we stand. We have asked that the Winnipeg grain exchange be closed, because we believe that in these times selling through the open market is not the best way to handle the marketing of agricultural products. The speculative market represents the world market, and at the present time the world market is not in a normal condition.

As someone has already said, Great Britain and until a short time ago France had one buying agency in this country. There is nothing to prevent the wheat board representing the government and the farmers of western Canada from dealing directly with that agency. We maintain that selling through these pools and associations set up under the cooperative wheat marketing legislation is no longer practicable or feasible. These pools and associations handled something less than one per cent of the crop last year, and it