

them in connection with the prosecution of the war, we are able to arrange that all the products shall be taken and that certain price levels shall be set in payment for them. You say, "Who pays for it?" Britain pays part of it and we pay the other part. In other words, we go right into the pockets of the people of Canada; we ask them to put up sufficient of the price to make it possible to get the increased production we are getting of farm products from one end of this country to the other.

Mr. QUELCH: You created a billion dollars last year.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friend says that we created a billion dollars. We created a billion dollar's worth of wealth, a billion dollar's worth of food, plus munitions, plus machines, and we distributed it to different countries where there was a very strong demand for it.

My hon. friend says, "What are you going to do in the future?" Well, I am afraid we shall have to do very much as we have been doing during this war, and very much as we had to do over a long period before the war started. Anyone who gets the foolish idea that the law of supply and demand, which was not written by anybody but simply exists, does not exist, is not going to do much to solve the problems which will be in existence when the war is over. If there is a demand, and there can be a demand, for all the food that we are producing on our farms, of course we shall be able to dispose of all that we produce, and I believe that any government that is in existence in this country or in any other country which has been associated with the allies in this war should be convinced that we ought to do everything we possibly can to see that these markets are assured in different parts of the world for the food which Canada produces.

The hon. member for North Battleford mentioned the point this afternoon when she referred to the needs of India, China and other countries. Of course we all know that the peoples in those countries, at any time in the generations that have gone by, could have consumed very much more food products than they were able to have delivered to their countries for consumption. We know, too, that there will be available a place in those countries for these food products if certain things are done here and certain things are done there, and those things we all hope will be possible as a result of any peace which is made at the end of this war. But when all that is done, it will continue to be true that there will be a demand for food in some parts

of the world and a surplus of food in other parts of the world, and there will still be the necessity of transferring surpluses from where they are to the places where the supply is short. If that is done, we in Canada will be able to produce to the limit of our possibilities and market the products at a return which will make it possible for us to carry on our farms.

I hope that I have made myself plain on this occasion. I hope that I shall not be asked on every item of administration to say the thing all over again, but if I am asked another three or four times I suppose I shall have to say it, and I shall be quite pleased to do so if it is insisted upon.

Mr. PERLEY: Did I understand the minister to state that we have a parity price with respect to wheat?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. We have at present a floor of \$1.25 under wheat, and all the wheat that is being sold at present is being sold at above the parity.

Mr. PERLEY: Does the minister maintain that the farmers receive what is termed the parity price?

Mr. GARDINER: The farmer is getting a guaranteed advance of \$1.25 a bushel, no matter what the price of wheat is; but the price of wheat has been above parity, if not ever since that floor was set, within a very few days after it was set; it is continuing there; and the farmer has a participation certificate.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I might preface my remarks by saying that fools enter where angels fear to tread. If we have disposed of wheat and pigs I should like to ask through you, Mr. Chairman, if I am in order, a question with reference to berries. I am not endeavouring to enter into an argument; I want some information: Is this the item on which I can get it?

Mr. GARDINER: I am afraid that it will not come under any of my items, because I believe the question which the hon. member is about to ask has to do with prices set by the prices board, which is not within my department.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: That is not the question I was going to ask. What I am particularly interested in is what policy the Department of Agriculture intends to recommend in connection with the disposal of our surplus crop of berries in the Fraser valley. There are several questions I want to ask, but first I would point out that there is an order in council, not under the minister's