

*Farm Prices*

different ways. Some products are now bearing all costs; with others some of the costs are being charged.

For example, we took over grass seeds some time ago. In providing for taking them over we took them over at a certain price level, and we are selling them out at a certain price level, in order to have the two balance. But the government is bearing the cost of administration in connection with it, and that means that to the extent of the administration costs there is really a subsidy on the product. There are some other products dealt with in that way, and some dealt with in the other. But they are all dealt with in the light of conditions surrounding the transactions.

The only other point I wish to deal with is a question raised by hon. members who have spoken from the other side of the house, and that is the question as to who is responsible for this kind of legislation. Well, there is only one thing I can say, so far as this piece of legislation is concerned, and it is this: I am absolutely certain as to who is responsible for its drafting. I am also just as certain as to who is responsible for bringing it into this house. I am also absolutely certain, as a matter of fact, that I would not have brought it into the house if it had not had the support of the whole government. So that there can be no question as to who is responsible for having this legislation in the position in which it is at the present time.

I am fairly certain of another thing. I do not recall at this time a single piece of social service legislation that ever got into this house through any other medium than that of the Liberal party.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GARDINER: It is all very well to be able to go back to conventions, to be able to go back to meetings at which people spoke here and there throughout the country, and quote what was said, and what was to be done, as indicated in the form of resolutions. But the fact remains that every piece of important social service legislation that has ever been brought into this house has been brought in by a Liberal government.

The outstanding illustration of that—and I think it is an illustration which demonstrates conclusively what I say—is this: When family allowances were first announced they did not have the outspoken support of any one of the political parties sitting opposite. Every one of them gave support, but with reservations, when those family allowances were first announced.

I have noticed, too, in connection with this legislation, that there has not been a single member on the opposite side of the house—

[Mr. Gardiner.]

and I am not referring to hon. members sitting in the corner of the chamber to your immediate left, Mr. Speaker—not a single member rising on the opposite side of the house has unreservedly supported the legislation. They have said, "Oh, the principle is good. If you are going to do with this legislation what we think you are going to do, then it is all very fine, and we are all for it. But if you are going to do something else"—and I do not know where they got these other ideas, because certainly they are not in the bill—

Mr. GILLIS: Just from past experience.

Mr. GARDINER: They say, "If you are going to do something else, then we would not be in favour of it." What I point to is this, that they are just hoping that something will develop that they will be able to hang themselves on, when the time comes.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: We will hang you with it.

Mr. GARDINER: Well, my hon. friend says they will hang me with it.

Mr. PERLEY: It will hang on your past record.

Mr. GARDINER: I know the record of the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. Castleden). He used to live in my town. As a matter of fact he used to support me. And you do not need to take my word for it, because it is on the record. I know some of the reasons why he does not support me to-day, but it certainly was not that he was ever able to hang me anywhere.

The situation in this matter is simply this, that right back through history, as far as you wish to go, it will be found that Liberals advocate a certain policy over a certain period of time. They eventually put it on the statute books, and it works well. Then our Conservative friends agree with it. In other words, right through the history of the development of our democratic institutions within the British empire, the Liberal party has been the leader in reform—and the Conservative party has had to be convinced.

I am pleased to have lived to see the day when all that the leader of the Conservative party can find on which to hang an appeal to the people at the present time is policies which have been advocated and put into effect by the Liberal party over a long period of years. In other words, we have apparently succeeded in doing what was done in Britain about a hundred years ago when the leader of the Conservative party, although he was leading the government, was persuaded for the first time to become an advocate of free