

reason the municipality is asked to pay 20 per cent of the cost of relief. Somebody, some time, has to begin to stop it; after the municipality has had its say, the province has its chance, and this government, as well as the previous government, has in most instances accepted the statement from the municipality, plus the statement by the province, that something ought to be done to assist these people. We make the municipality assume responsibility by finding 20 per cent and the province by finding 40 per cent. Now we are in June, and there may be a very fine crop standing. I drove through my hon. friend's district last August, and I saw the finest crop I have ever seen in my life.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Not in the Erwood district.

Mr. GARDINER: Perhaps I should have said in the district of the hon. member for Melfort, (Mr. Wright), which is right alongside, and even starting from Foam Lake, or just north of Yorkton, and continuing north in the constituency of Mackenzie, there was a pretty fine crop last year. In the district north of Tisdale there was the best crop I have ever seen at any time anywhere in the world. That is immediately tributary to the district where these people are settled.

Mr. NICHOLSON: A hundred miles away.

Mr. GARDINER: I say in the district right around the edge of the country to which I am referring, and where the crop is, you will find many of these people.

Mr. WRIGHT: The biggest percentage of these people have no land under cultivation at all.

Mr. GARDINER: Then they are under the northern settlement plan, with which I am not dealing at all. Here we are in the month of June, and the municipal councils see fine crops growing. Do not hon. members think they are showing good judgment when they give notice three months ahead that if those crops continue to grow, there will be no further relief after September 1, when harvesting will be in progress? That notice is given now in the statements referred to, but if in the meantime there are no crops; if they are dried out or frozen or hailed out, then the provincial government, the federal government and the municipality will come back into the picture, as they have ever since we have had relief.

Mr. WRIGHT: May I ask a question?

Mr. GARDINER: It is just about six o'clock, and I should like to finish what I have to say.

Mr. WRIGHT: I just wondered if the minister knew what percentage of those people were settled in municipalities and what percentage in unorganized districts.

Mr. GARDINER: I will have those figures when I bring down my estimates but I believe the percentage in the organized districts will be lower than in the unorganized.

Every year the agreements that have been entered into under this act have run out on April 1. We have extended them month by month and have indicated that if conditions were better as we got into the season, the agreements would be cancelled entirely. But along in August or September we have entered into our new agreements. Between April 1 and September 1 every governing body has called the attention of the people to the fact that they might be cut off relief and probably would be cut off if conditions justified that being done. Most people hope they will be able to go off relief, and they are all trying to cooperate towards that end. So I suggest that if a provincial government, as in this case through the northern settlement plan, have given three months' notice of their intention to cut people off relief, they have given fairly good notice; but if there is no crop in the meantime, the people will have relief just as they have always had it. No one will deny it to them.

The municipal council is the first body that must act. I suppose we might as well admit here, as we admit elsewhere, that it is only human nature to pass the buck a little. When a man is cornered and asked, "Why aren't you going to give us relief?" the municipal man may say, "Oh, the province is not going to help us," and the province may say, "Well, the federal government is not going to help us." Our view has been that if we are absolutely satisfied that they should not be helped, we will not help them, and I believe the province would say exactly the same thing. But the municipality with the assistance of the province and the federal government will carry them along until all are satisfied as to whether they should be helped. This bill is to make the help possible. I think my hon. friends will agree with me in this, that in the ten years we have gone through, the great majority of people, irrespective of party or irrespective of any government with which they might have been associated, and irrespective of any municipality with which they might have been connected, have been trying to do the best they can for the people who have been having very difficult times.