

*The Address—Mr. Gardiner*

other way, but it is also true that under certain weather conditions some of that equipment will not function properly. Therefore you may not get any more done in the first ten days when seeding is possible with the kind of equipment we are utilizing now than we got before with much smaller horse-drawn equipment. Those who are producing this equipment are already experimenting with changes in it in order to make it possible to operate to greater advantage and to get the crop in at an earlier date. But I did want to say that much, not as a suggestion that the farmer should or that he is going to change back from the system he follows to the system that was followed before. Someone mentioned that this afternoon. They are not likely to do that.

But it does devolve upon all of us, both those of us conducting experimental farms and those of us who are producing equipment that is going to be utilized on the farms, to try to give back the whole of that time to the farmer, so that he can get his crop in at the earliest possible date. That is the first thing that has to be done.

Then, after that has been accomplished, we come to the harvest time. And I must say that during the last two seasons we have had experiences which have come to us, first by the fact that we seeded late, and secondly by the fact that our harvest started late. Last year our crop was frozen. This year our crop, or a very large part of it, is still out under the snow. I am not going to contend that had we been still cutting it with a binder and stooking it, that much of it would not still be out under the snow. I recall that in 1919 winter came on the tenth of October, and it came to stay on the tenth of October. Some of my crop was out under the snow that winter, and much of the crop of other farmers was out under the snow, too, during that winter. So we cannot say that if we had had some other system this would not have happened.

But still I think we should do everything possible including improvements in equipment to see to it that it does not happen any more often than we can help. But over the period that I have known something about farming in western Canada I can say that we had our crop frozen in the same way in 1907, when we did have red fife wheat—and frozen much worse than it was last year.

Then in 1914 we had a drought very similar to the drought which we have had recently. Governments had to go and help the farmers out in 1914. Then hon. members will all recall that from 1930 to 1938 we had the longest drought, the longest dried out period in the west, that we have ever experienced.

Now, all I wish to say with regard to that is that in all those cases, on every one of those occasions, the problem was handled by provincial governments. The handling of it was carried out by provincial governments. Now, it is true that at certain stages the federal government was called upon to assist. In the case of homesteaders who were still under lease and had not claimed their titles the federal government took care of the assistance that was necessary in relation to lands that were still held under homesteading regulations, and the provincial government took care of those who owned their land.

It is true that in 1908 and again in 1914 some adjustment was made as between the two, to make it easier. Nevertheless the principle was that the federal government took care of those who were still on government land and the provincial governments took care of those on the land for which they held title.

This brings us down to the big occasion upon which a very considerable amount of assistance was required, namely, in the thirties. We had seven years without crops, in many areas. And on that occasion all I can say is that the federal government did come in with money and help. This government paid out \$186 million in that period in order to assist with distribution of, first, the seed, then distribution of feed and then distribution of food. In other words, in order to make it possible for the farmers to stay there, that was done.

Now we are face to face with a problem which confronts us as a result of a frozen crop last year, and a crop which we are having difficulty with, not because of drought but because of too much moisture. That has carried our crop into the winter season, and it is now lying under the snow.

Well, I suppose if we follow the practice that we always have followed, the proper thing to do at this time would be for the provincial governments to work out some plan and present it, and if they are not able to take care of the financing of it themselves, they might present some method of taking care of it through the federal government. They might consider that they have done that, in the light of the changes which have taken place since we last dealt with this problem.

Wheat now must be delivered to the wheat board. During the thirties that was not so. No one had to deliver wheat to the wheat board in the thirties. But now all wheat is delivered to the wheat board. And so it is suggested that probably some plan should be worked out by the wheat board, which