

An hon. MEMBER: We did not say that.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friends sitting in the far corner did not say that, but that is what their leader said the last time he was in Ottawa interviewing the government and asking for the payment of subventions to assist in bringing Alberta coal to Ontario.

I make that statement because it gives me an opportunity to reply to some of the arguments that have been advanced against the payment of subventions to those who are producing wheat in the west. For many years we have been paying subventions to assist the shipment of coal from the maritime provinces to Ontario. We have been offering to pay subventions to assist in the shipment of coal from Alberta to Ontario. We have been paying subventions to assist in the shipment of coal from Alberta to the city of Winnipeg. We have paid subventions on coal shipped from my own constituency in Saskatchewan to the city of Winnipeg. We have been paying bonuses to the steel industry in Nova Scotia since long before I was born.

Mr. CRERAR: Not now.

Mr. GARDINER: We paid those bonuses when that steel industry was operating. We have paid other bounties, other bonuses, to various branches of industry from one end of Canada to the other. I make this statement in order to say this, that as a member from western Canada and as a member of this government I do not want to be associated with those on either side of this house who say that at this time we should be trading our views in connection with tariff matters in Canada for any consideration we may obtain in relation to the wheat industry of the west. I would not associate any request that we make from western Canada for consideration in regard to wheat with the fact that tariffs have been collected throughout the length and breadth of the dominion in order to assist industry in this country. I do not believe we have any claim on that ground. And why do I say that? Because every farmer in Canada, whether operating east or west of the great lakes, has been paying his share of the tax that has been imposed upon the people of Canada by reason of the fact that we have had a protective tariff or a revenue tariff ever since confederation. There are, and always have been, more farmers east of the great lakes than there are west of the great lakes. There is as much and more farm produce and farm wealth produced east of the great lakes than west of the great

lakes. So I repeat that I have never based the request for the payment of assistance to the wheat growers of the west on the ground that tariffs have been collected in order to assist industry in Canada.

Mr. LANDERYOU: The farmers of Ontario and Quebec have a market among the industrial workers of those provinces, but the farmers of western Canada have no market here.

Mr. GARDINER: It is true that the farmers of the east have a market in eastern Canada, but the farmers of the east have not produced of the commodities that we in the west produce, sufficient in volume to feed the industrial population of the east.

Miss MACPHAIL: They get a better price for what they do produce.

Mr. GARDINER: They do get a better price. We have a market here as well. It is true that it is not so good to us, because we must pay the freight rate from the west, but in any event that is not the ground upon which I would base any claim we may have for consideration as wheat growers.

You may ask me, Mr. Speaker, on what I would base any such claim. I would base it partly upon the fact that these subventions have been paid to others. But even more than that I would base it upon the fact that this very year we are providing in the estimates now before this house an amount of \$27,000,000, the greater part of which will be spent in the industrial centres of the east and the extreme west for the purpose of maintaining in those areas where industry is established the labour that is necessary in order to operate those plants in times of prosperity. That is as much as we have ever asked in any legislation brought into this house. That money is paid out in relief for no other purpose than to maintain the men who were employed in our factories prior to the period of depression, producing commodities which were sold both within and without this country. It is paid to maintain them until such time as these people may be able to produce again and sell to advantage the products of industry. I repeat that if it is a proper thing for the dominion parliament to vote money for that purpose, it is a proper thing for this parliament to provide money to maintain upon the farms of the wheat producing areas of the west those farmers who, in years gone by, produced so much wealth and made it available for the purchase of goods coming from all sections of this country.