

must come back and say whether or not it is required any longer," I am prepared to accept that. But I do not think it would be fair to the farmers of this country to be told that they must use certain ingredients during a time when others were not available in greater quantities and now, when those ingredients are beginning to come back, we should say we are not going to look after the farmers in a particular district.

Mr. SENN: The minister is talking about not being fair to the farmers. Farmers are having analyses made of the soil on their farms in increasing numbers throughout Ontario, and perhaps in other provinces as well. I know I have had the soil of my farm analysed at the Ontario agricultural college, as have many farmers in the district. They come back and tell me certain things are needed for my farm, while something else may be needed on the farm of a neighbour, but we are unable to buy what we need because it has not been specified by the minister and his officials. I am sure no one wants to detract from the efficiency of the officials of his department or of the provincial department. They are a capable body of men, doing good work; but no official—

Mr. GARDINER: Suppose there is not a sufficient quantity, as there is not in some of these ingredients, to go round. Why should anyone allow you to get all you require for your farm, while your neighbour may not be allowed to get any?

Mr. SENN: I would not take very much of it, after all. What I might need for my farm might not be needed on the next farm, because I have seen enough land throughout Ontario at least—I do not know anything about the west—to realize that the type and quality of land vary substantially within the course of, say five miles. One type of soil may need lime; another needs nitrates, and so on all the way down the list.

Mr. GARDINER: But you could not get them.

Mr. SENN: They might not always be available; and if this is purely for the sake of conserving certain ingredients that are hard to obtain, that might be a different aspect of the matter. But I do not think a man should be forced to buy a particular fertilizer which is not the best for his particular soil, and prohibited from buying the fertilizer that is best.

Mr. GARDINER: The short-term objective is to deal with the shortage of these commodities. That is the only reason it was done during the war. It might have been done before if there had not been a shortage, and

that condition still exists. We must go to the international board in order to get our proportion of potash and some other ingredients for fertilizer. So long as that is the condition I think we do require, irrespective of what one might think about a long-term policy, that kind of action. If hon. members are afraid that too much authority is being given for too long a period, then I have no objection to amending this section to provide that if we want the power to be continued beyond a certain period, say a year or two years, we must come back here.

Mr. SENN: The minister says that certain fertilizer constituents are in short supply. Can the officials of his department working with the provincial authorities distribute those so that everybody will get a fair deal? I doubt very much if they can do so. Ontario may want more than some other province, and there will be a shortage in any event.

Mr. GARDINER: They did the best job they could during the war period. They have not satisfied everybody and you cannot satisfy everybody when there is a shortage of anything. But they have got the different provincial boards to consider the situation which exists and to agree that for this year the mixture ought to be so-and-so for that particular district. They are making the ingredients go as far as they can to meet the requirements in the different areas. I submit that, as long as we have to go to international boards to get our share of ingredients, that authority ought to be there, whether we continue it afterwards or not.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I do not represent many farmers, perhaps only half a dozen, but I do represent quite a few Liberals. During the war we gave up a number of liberties which we valued and permitted government controls, but it was our hope that we would get rid of those controls as soon as possible. When we read regulations like this saying that the farmers are going to be forced to buy government approved fertilizer in certain areas, and when we hear the hon. member for Calgary West say that one factory could turn out all the fertilizer needed in Canada in one week if it were permitted to work to full capacity, I cannot understand why the government does not say, "We will give approval to the fertilizer we think best suited to the district and if other fertilizer manufacturers want to put out inferior brands for sale in those districts we shall have no objection as Liberals as long as what is in the bag is clearly shown on the bag."