

on July 31, 1942, we had only one month's feed supply on hand. Members will tell me that that was not so bad because we had the best crop standing that we have ever seen grow in Canada. But we did not know that when we bred the sows in December of the preceding year. We did not know it when we bred the cows in 1941. We did not know it when we were deciding whether to sell our milk to a cheese factory or to a creamery in the spring of 1942. We did not know until well on in July that we were going to be able to harvest that crop and make it available to the people of this country. So that the limiting factor down to the first of August, 1942, was our supply of grain.

But the government did not wait until 1942 to start to do something about that. We brought regulations into this house and we stated that we were in a hurry to get them through because of the necessity of having feed grain planted instead of wheat. What happened? The house held those regulations up day after day, and it was only by herculean efforts on the part of members, especially of the government, that we were able to get them through the house in sufficient time to let the farmers of western Canada know what was expected of them. That was in the spring of 1941. We repeated that action in the spring of 1942, and with what result? The result was that our lands in western Canada were cultivated in the manner in which they should always be cultivated, with a very considerable percentage of them under summer-fallow. When we sowed coarse grains and wheat on summer-fallowed lands in the spring of 1942, and when we had favourable weather conditions, even with a reduction of seven million acres in wheat in western Canada, we produced more wheat that year than we ever produced before.

What was our limitation in 1941-42? Our limitation was feed grain. We had twice as much feed grain when we harvested our crop of 1942 as we obtained from our crop of 1941. So that through the policies of this government—

Mr. COLDWELL: And the rain.

Mr. GARDINER: And the rain, yes. So that through the policies of this government—and I might say, Mr. Speaker, that the government always likes to work along with those who send the rain—we had the land ready, and one only has to read the scriptures to find out what that means: if you have your land prepared well in advance and your seed planted at the right time and the showers come and the sun beats down upon

[Mr. Gardiner.]

the land, you get a crop. And that happened in 1942.

In the spring of 1942 when those who represented the farm organizations came to Ottawa, they asked a natural question: What is the government going to do to assist eastern farmers to get feed grain? When you were putting this measure through the house in 1941, members expressed the fear that you would so glut the market with coarse grains that we would be unable to market ours in eastern Canada, or that if we fed those grains to live stock in western Canada we would have so much live stock that we would not be able to market live stock produced in eastern Canada. I must say this for those representatives, that almost without exception the men who said that in 1941 got up in 1942 and said that they were wrong in 1941 and that they were going to join with the government in its policy of 1942 of attempting to get meat supplies and oil supplies to send to our allies in this war.

Let me repeat: it was not hindsight on the part of the government that got the results in 1942; it was not lack of planning; it was not that they did not give information to the farmers across Canada. The results that were obtained in 1942 were based upon the sound policies which had had their inception at the beginning of the war and have been developed constantly from the beginning of the war down to the present time. Might I say that the announcement made to-day by the Minister of Finance is just another indication that the government is keeping abreast of the situation in connection with production across this country.

Then I think I hear someone saying, If there is no shortage, why did you need rationing of butter? Why did you need to talk about rationing of something else? I should like to tell a story which illustrates a point. When I was in Washington in January I met a man who turned out to be a newspaper reporter. Newspaper reporters are usually looking for information; and he said this to me, "I notice you have rationed butter in Canada." I said, "Yes, we have." He said, "What do you mean by saying you have rationed butter? I notice you are giving your people twenty-six pounds per head." I said, "Yes. They were eating thirty-two pounds before." "Well," he said, "that is far more butter than we eat down here. Our figures indicate that we eat only half that much." Well, I brought up a question which has been mentioned in this house from time to time—the consumption of oleomargarine; and he said, "Oh, but that makes up only about one-eighteenth of the