

Supply—Agriculture

fact that it will be necessary for the farmers to keep some of this grain in condition on their farms, because the volume is too great to send it through commercial channels. This is in addition to the work that has been done by the provincial governments, and I give all three of them full credit for having co-operated in attempting, first of all, to make a survey of the number of on-farm grain dryers that they have, and in their other action to co-ordinate the activity of these grain dryers at strategic points so that they can be of maximum benefit to farmers.

One of the most useful functions would be to set up strategic positions in which the dryers that are already in western Canada could be placed for truck turn-around operations, in addition to the grain dryers that are already in commercial positions. In other words, farmers, who do not need to have a quota to do this, bring in their grain, have it dried and take it back to their farms. Otherwise, all kinds of other problems arise if the dryers have to be moved around too much, or if it is done in other ways. I suggested to many of the farm groups that the people who are in the best position to do that are the elevator companies. The reason is that they have the men in the field with the knowledge, the contacts and the expertise with regard to western Canada where this grain is grown, and they have indicated a willingness to co-operate. Of course there are many details to be worked out and administrative and physical problems that cannot be solved in a day. Action in this respect has been taken a little more rapidly in some provinces than in others, but in all the provinces things are moving along and I give them full credit for it.

In so far as the elevators under the management of the Board of Grain Commissioners are concerned, the Edmonton drying operation is going on 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and there is a sufficient amount of grain for the operation to continue on this basis. The Calgary dryer is operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Sometimes insufficient grain is available, but 80 cars of damp grain are expected there at the beginning of next week. The Saskatoon dryer is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and occasionally running out of grain, but it is expected to have sufficient carloads for continued operation by the middle of next week. The Moose Jaw dryer is operating 24 hours a day, five days a week, but, as has

[Mr. Olson.]

been pointed out, they have run out of grain. They will be receiving 140 cars of tough wheat by the first or the middle of next week. Let us bear in mind that Moose Jaw is not in an area of damp wheat, and also that the volume of tough grain is limited; so it has been difficult to set up the machinery to keep this moving through smoothly.

The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre knows as well as I do that it is not possible to set out a policy for the movement of such a large volume of grain and make all the arrangements to put it into motion immediately. This is not the way it works. It takes a little more time than that to start the whole thing moving swiftly and smoothly. He might remember that in the fall of 1965, when the problem was not with wet grain but rather with getting sufficient volumes of grain into export positions, it took up to ten weeks before all these problems had been worked out, and co-ordination was achieved in moving this grain through all the channels into export positions. We did not have this problem last year, and in fact we have not had it since 1959 in great magnitude.

The hon. member for Crowfoot knows that you do not suddenly decide one day that you are going to give a three bushel quota for tough and damp grain and the next day everyone must deliver. It does not work that way. The problem is much greater than that.

Mr. Horner: How many times has the western grain transportation committee met? Once in the last six months.

• (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Olson: Anyway, Mr. Chairman, the fact is that a great deal has been done. The work on the arrangements for the fiscal movement of this grain started several weeks ago and the movement in and out of dryers has been building up. So far as I am concerned, the co-operation from the people in the field has been excellent. There will be some places where more could be done. I do not claim we have done everything that could be done, but it is a long, long way from the truth to say that we have not done anything.

I want to turn to another subject, and that is the matter of family farms raised by the Leader of the Opposition. He wondered if we had concern for family farms. We certainly do. I want to tell him for example, that the Farm Credit Corporation—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I regret that I have to interrupt the hon. member because his time has expired.