

would have an advantage over what would otherwise be their position in getting their grain here. I must say that the policy proved much more successful than probably we anticipated it would, and also much more necessary. So that in 1942, instead of paying only half the freight to a province which would pay half, we agreed to pay all the freight, and not only that, but we set a ceiling price on the coarse grains. We said, no matter what the farmer could obtain elsewhere for them, when they were sold in Canada they were to be sold under a certain ceiling price. Speaking from memory—I have not the actual figures in front of me, but I can get them later—I think we paid out last year considerably more than \$10,000,000 in bringing coarse grains east.

Mr. SENN: About \$9,000,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Up to a certain date, but it has gradually been building up, and when the accounts are all in I think it will be \$10,000,000. It is a considerable amount of money, and that is being paid to put grain on eastern farms at a lower price. Some objection was raised at the time that it might affect the corn-growing area, which is largely located in two counties, and some other areas where feed grains are grown to advantage. Probably they have suffered to some extent as the result of this policy, but outside of that I do not think there has been any great complaint against the policy. I think it is considered to have been helpful to the western farmer through the payment for wheat acreage reduction. It has helped him to sell that amount of grain at a lower price, and it has also been helpful to the eastern farmer to have the grain laid down here with that ceiling price on the grain, which is not as high at present as it would be if the grain were going elsewhere.

Mr. SENN: The minister has not answered my question whether the returns to the western farmer from a greater production of coarse grains have been as high as what he would have received if he had been sowing wheat and getting the price set by the wheat board from time to time.

Mr. GARDINER: I answered that by saying that it was really not involved in what we did. I will answer it as nearly as I can. This year, if we were to take just the yields of 1942 and the price of 1942 and the fact that we can deliver only half our wheat—of course, up to date we have not been able to deliver half our coarse grains either, but if we were able to deliver our coarse grains at present prices and take the yields of last year into consideration we would probably have as high returns from coarse grains as from wheat. But

generally speaking that is not the case, particularly through those areas where drought prevails at times and where the rainfall is particularly low. Coarse grains sown on summer-fallow on some of those lands go down very badly on account of heavy straw and do not yield as well as they otherwise would, when rainfall is good. But in a fairly good year the summer-fallowed land in those areas would produce more from wheat if the wheat could be marketed. In addition, there are areas in the west where the farmers have been pretty well convinced over a long period of years that it is very difficult to grow coarse grains. Even yet they hesitate to do it, in spite of the experience of last year. But last year was an exception. You could grow coarse grains anywhere in the west. There are years when that is difficult. Your seeding time is at a difficult period, and also your maturity time, and if you sow barley or oats around the first of June and you get what we often do get—a dry, warm season when germination is taking place—the barley or oats simply just does not come, or if it comes at all it comes too late to produce a crop. In those areas there is no doubt that there is more return from wheat than from coarse grains. But our objective in dealing with it has not been concerned with that. It has been to take care of the reduced earning he might have obtained had it not been agreed that these grains would be needed in great volume in eastern Canada.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I am not sure that I followed the minister correctly in connection with rye, but if I did his statement means, I think, that many farmers who seeded rye last fall under the agreement set out in last year's act will be disappointed now.

Mr. GARDINER: No, they will be very well pleased. They have not been paid yet.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): For the sake of argument, say a farmer has 400 acres of wheat as his basic acreage in 1940. He has seeded 100 acres to rye in 1942 and 100 acres of coarse grains. He was paid in 1942 how much money?

Mr. GARDINER: It would depend on what they knew at the time. The fact I tried to make clear was this. A man does not have wheat acreage reduction in 1942 as a result of sowing rye in 1942. He has a wheat acreage reduction in 1942 as a result of sowing rye in 1941. That was not covered in the act of last year. There are about 2,000 farmers who have not been paid on their rye. Some of them have not been paid on anything, awaiting the passing of this legislation.