

the house before being recommended to council. The only power that we desire to have in connection with this matter is to be in a position to deal with circumstances that arise at times when the house is not in session. Any time the house is in session I am quite prepared to say that all regulations will be placed before the house.

Mr. GRAHAM: I should like to remind the western members of this committee particularly, that this house proposes to adjourn to-morrow night, that spring operations on western farms are commencing, and that the greatest contribution we can make to the interests of our constituents would be to get down to an examination of these all-important regulations, and I would suggest that we spend very little of the short time left in the consideration of the merits of this scheme, but that we serve our constituents by considering these regulations and attempting to make them the most useful they can be made under the scheme announced by the government.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Following the suggestion of the hon. member for Swift Current, would it be possible to go over these regulations to-night clause by clause? Certainly, when we go home to western Canada, we are going to be asked many questions, and even after discussion in much detail there will still be many questions which we shall not be able to answer.

Mr. GARDINER: It is quite acceptable to me if the committee is agreeable, that at eight o'clock we start to discuss the regulations clause by clause.

Mr. COLDWELL: That is an excellent suggestion, which I think should be adopted.

Mr. GRAYDON: The western members are not the only ones who are going to be asked some questions when this house adjourns for the Easter recess. I do not always find it necessary to come to the defence of the hon. member for Victoria, Ontario, but I think there is one thing the minister may have overlooked in his argument, and I should not like him to have an argument that is not fool-proof. That one thing is this: as far as greater production of coarse grains for feeding purposes is concerned I think the minister took it for granted that the grain would be all taken from western Canada to eastern Canada and fed here. The fear of eastern Canadian agriculture is not the movement of cheaper feed to eastern Canada but that there will be more competition in mixed farming by virtue of all these changes in western Canada. I realize that there are two sides to all questions, and I do not wish to be dogmatic, but eastern Canadian agriculture

does view with some alarm the changes likely to result from these regulations; because, if mixed farming increases in western Canada, it will affect eastern agriculture.

I do not think that, in years gone by, eastern agriculture has had too good a break as far as governments are concerned, and in saying that I am not making a charge against any particular government. You can readily see the position we have been up against in eastern Canada for a long time. Take the present government; among the eighteen cabinet ministers we have not one eastern Canadian farmer. I make only that comment. In addition, we have hardly any representatives of eastern Canadian agriculture on any of the boards, either war-time or peace-time, of the government. It may be that, in some instances, this is perfectly all right; it might be argued by some that there would be no justification for placing such representatives on these boards, but the people of eastern Canada cannot see it that way. They have the feeling that these regulations indicate a movement towards mixed farming in the west which will be to their detriment. They are not anxious, and never have been anxious, to see the agriculturist of the west discriminated against. There is a great bond of feeling between agriculture in eastern and western Canada; but on the other hand they have to protect their own interests in these matters as well. What has been said by the hon. member for Victoria, Ontario, with regard to one class of farming getting a bonus while another class gets nothing, perhaps would not mean so much but for the fact that to-day eastern Canadian agriculture is passing through one of the worst periods it has experienced since I have had anything to do with agriculture in this part of the country, and because of that fact the people are aroused.

The minister should be very careful, in dealing with this set-up, that he does not assist western agriculture at the expense of eastern agriculture. I would prefer to see western agriculture assisted by the whole of Canada, rather than at the expense of another part of the agricultural industry. I have no doubt that in framing these regulations and placing them in some workable form, he will keep that point in mind. It is not a question of creating a fight between east and west; a fight of that kind is the last thing we want at any time. I would be one of the first to say that western agriculture should be helped, but we should not forget that there is an east as well as a west. I point this out to the minister and ask him to consider these points thoroughly before making any change that may bring about, in time to come, severe farming competition as between the east and the west.