

consignments of clothing and all sorts of things. I know, therefore, that if the people really had the facts, action would be taken. I am concerned that the minister should see to it that the present emergency throughout the world will not be used as an excuse for pressing down relief allowances in northern Saskatchewan, because those allowances are already far too low. I hope the minister will see that those responsible for the administration of relief in Saskatchewan are advised to make sure that no person is deprived of food and clothing in this day and age.

Mr. GRAHAM: Have the cases to which the hon. member has been referring been submitted to the provincial authorities of Saskatchewan?

Mr. NICHOLSON: I am glad to answer that question. One of these cases was referred to the department in charge in Regina. I am sorry I have not the reply with me, but my advice was that commencing the first of June this particular allowance was cut down to \$14 a month as a result of the coming in of gardens.

Mr. GRAHAM: Will the hon. member give me the name of the municipality?

Mr. NICHOLSON: This is in an unorganized district.

Mr. GRAHAM: Will the hon. member give the name of the district in which the person resides?

Mr. NICHOLSON: In the northern re-establishment area, in the Erwood district. I shall be glad to give my friend the name and the correspondence from the department in Regina. The minister's department is investigating this case. I did take the matter up with Regina, and they advised me that the allowance was reduced to \$14 a month at the beginning of June as a result of gardens coming in. This woman replied that they cannot expect garden stuff until July, and she says that the allowance is only \$12. I am sure the minister will investigate to see whether it has been cut to \$12 or whether it is \$14 as the department in Regina says.

Mr. GARDINER: This discussion has been wide of the section now being considered. Much of the discussion that has taken place to-day, and the discussion that took place previously, has had to do with another matter which will come up later on. The term "northern settlement plan" has been referred to time after time. In my estimates there is a vote for the northern settlement plan, and all the work under that plan which is done by the provincial government is done as a result

of arrangements made under that vote and not in connection with this bill. All the discussions in connection with that, I presume, will take place again when we come to the estimate of \$250,000 to be used in the different provinces for that kind of work, the greater part being used in Saskatchewan. The settlers spoken of are settlers who, as the leader of the opposition will remember, were moved into that country under a plan started by Mr. Bennett in 1932, whereby the municipality paid \$200, the province \$200 and the federal government \$200, to move people, many of them from Saskatoon and Moose Jaw and some from other districts into the northern areas of Saskatchewan. They were given this \$600 to buy equipment and building materials to take with them in order to start farming. Many of these people had no farming experience or knew very little about farming in bush country. Some had worked the greater part of their lives on the railway. Eventually the plan was dropped. Some of these people lost their live stock; some lost other supplies that had been sent up as a result of securing the \$600. Most of them had to be placed on relief, costing the province and the government of Canada and others at least as much as they were costing where they came from, and, in many instances, more.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The suggestion being that they were not qualified to farm.

Mr. GARDINER: They had not the equipment for farming, or they were put on bush farms when they were acquainted with nothing but the open prairie. Moreover, in that country it cost as much as \$40 an acre to break the land, and when a person goes on the land in some of these areas it is a long time before enough is cleared to produce sufficient to pay the cost. In the last four or five years the government, with the assistance of the federal authority, has been helping these people to break some land, actually buying tractors to help them to break up the land at a lower cost. I shall have the figures when the estimates are down in connection with my own department, indicating the number of those persons taken off relief as a result of the activities of the provincial government and the federal authorities working in cooperation. That is being carried on not only in Saskatchewan but on a smaller scale in New Brunswick. It is also being done to some extent in British Columbia and in Alberta, but by far the greater part has been done in Saskatchewan. That is another story altogether but one that has been mixed up with this bill from time to time.