

The next clause provides:

(ii) for the return to primary producers of the proceeds of the sale of all agricultural products . . . produced during the year.

Then over the page "year" is defined as meaning—

—such period of twelve months as the minister may designate as being the year of production of an agricultural product.

An initial payment is made, and any further returns I understand are, by permission of the minister or the governor in council, allowed to be paid at a later date. Is it contemplated that the final return shall be made only once a year? Of course it says the cooperative plan means an agreement or arrangement on the part of the farmers themselves. But if these returns are to be made only once a year it may easily work a hardship on some particular line of agricultural products. For instance, eggs; the production of eggs in the winter costs much more than in the summer. Farmers who are producing eggs in the winter should get a larger price than farmers in that cooperative who produce only in the summer. If there is to be a final equal return based on the amount left over after the initial payments, it would seriously affect the chances of cooperative organizations going into business.

Mr. GARDINER: The last two statements made by the hon. member indicate the necessity for dealing with many of these matters by regulation. Section 4 provides:

4. The minister may, with the approval of the governor in council, make regulations prescribing,

(a) the time and times when any payment subsequent to the initial payment may be made:

What has been said in regard to eggs applies also to butter and cheese, which are made largely in the summer months; all these products would be handled to suit the conditions applying to their production. For that reason it is not possible to put into an act all the regulations that would be necessary in dealing with any particular product. Subsection (c) (i) "equal returns to primary producers for agricultural products of the like grade and quality" means when the original payment of not more than eighty per cent is made it is the intention that interim and final payments shall be made later. But the act requires that when these interim and final payments are made, when totalled up they shall be equal for like grade and quality.

Mr. QUELCH: Does the minister say that the provisions of this bill can be applied to the set-up in Alberta under the new marketing act?

[Mr. Senn.]

Mr. GARDINER: They can be applied to any scheme or organization of producers that is set up in Alberta of this nature—cooperatives desiring to pool the prices of their commodity over a particular period, no matter whether at the same time they are operating under the provincial act or not.

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): The minister is to be congratulated upon bringing down this legislation. We had no legislation under which farmers in Canada producing principally for export could organize. Now we have also Bill No. 84, to amend the Dairy Industry Act, under which an advisory committee will be appointed to study the whole dairy industry. That industry, in spite of what was said yesterday, has been since 1931, more important in Canada than the wheat growing industry. Not that I want to discriminate between east and west, because we agriculturists of the east think that the whole problem of agriculture in Canada should be considered as an entity. But there is no doubt that the agriculture of western Canada has been better organized in the last year than the dairy industry of the whole of Canada.

A few moments ago there came into my hands some reasons why it would be rather hard to continue to peg the price of any commodity. This little article struck me as showing that it is unwise and unfair to peg the price of wheat and not the price of farm products raised in other provinces. This truth is coming to be realized more and more by our agriculturists of the east, and they are anxious to know when this thing is going to end. A few years ago there was no doubt that wheat was in a difficult position, and legislation was passed to aid it. There was a wheat pool and a wheat board; there were bonuses and guaranteed price and fixed price and other help for the wheat growers. This was all done since 1931. But the dairy industry is more important than wheat. I repeat that because several times yesterday we were told that the wheat growing industry was the great producer of wealth in Canada. The dairy industry is in just as dire a situation as wheat. At the moment a certain part of it is controlled, but the milk sold in the Montreal district in the form of fluid milk was being paid for at \$2.15 a hundred pounds. Now the summer price is being paid, \$1.75 per 100 pounds. Compare that with the farmer who produces milk to be made into butter or cheese and who gets about 75 cents per 100 pounds. The cost of production, as I stated the other day, is from \$1.24 to \$1.28; consequently milk producers are getting much less than the cost of production.