

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The Minister of Agriculture remarked that he hoped that later on, when wheat is needed, these people will be able to produce it. Does he suppose that the farmer on a quarter-section of land can possibly carry on under the reduced income which is going to be forced upon him under this legislation?

Mr. GARDINER: I do not know very many quarter-section farmers in western Canada; there are a few of them. But all those I do know are carrying on mixed farming. I do not know of any farmer who farms a quarter-section of land who is depending largely for his living upon his wheat. He is depending upon wheat for the kind of thing which was mentioned earlier in the debate by the hon. member for Yorkton; that is, he sometimes has to depend upon it to pay his past debts; if he does not get the wheat, he just is not able to pay. I agree, however, that there is some danger in these cases, if someone does not protect the interest of the individual farmer, of actions being taken in cases, where perhaps, they should not be. But, again, I would suppose that these cases are limited in number. The experience I have had with mortgage companies, particularly—and they get about as much criticism as anybody—is that in times like these they are not looking for more land. I believe that so long as a person is able to get along without running further into debt, he will not find much difficulty in getting whatever is available under this legislation, to help him carry on.

To answer this question in another way, I would say this, that if we once accept the condition that we are going to take only 230,000,000 bushels, and the further fact that we are going to allow the farmer only a quota in order to make up his part of that 230,000,000 bushels, I believe if he operates the matter properly, he can get better returns under this arrangement than he could under the other. In many instances it will depend upon the farmer himself whether he does or not. If, for example, he were putting in sixty acres of wheat, or anything over sixty acres, of a quarter-section of 160 acres, I think he could work out a plan under this scheme whereby he would get more cash this year than he would under the other system that is proposed.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: On what does the minister base that estimate of an increased income?

Mr. GARDINER: On the figures I gave a few minutes ago, that he could get under this, if he is farming on a quarter-section

[Mr. Gardiner.]

proportionately to what he would be farming on a half-section, about 86 cents a bushel, on the wheat that he cannot deliver—

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Only on a few acres.

Mr. GARDINER: It would be only a few acres in the other case, too.

Mr. GRAHAM: I believe the regulations provide for this, but I should like to be certain, because of the difference in the wording of the first subparagraphs (b) and (c). It will be noted that it provides in (c) that rye can be seeded in the fall of 1941 on summer-fallow, and one can get the compensation for summer-fallow, and also in 1942, \$2 per acre of rye. Does that apply to crested wheat grass in a district where it is good wisdom to sow it in the fall rather than in the summer?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. It applies to rye and any kind of grass. It is the custom in some areas to sow grass seed in the fall of the year, and in those areas it will be sown in the fall. There will be certain farmers who can take advantage of that under conditions such as were described by the hon. member for Acadia, where men allow land to lie fallow throughout the year. Under this plan they can allow it to lie fallow throughout the year, sowing nothing on it at all, not even summer-fallowing it. They can sow rye on it in the fall or grass and get \$2 for having sown grass or rye in the fall and another \$2 the following year if it is still there.

Mr. GERSHAW: Suppose it is a cover crop of wheat sown in the fall. How will that work out?

Mr. GARDINER: There is no provision for paying any one for sowing wheat. It is for not sowing wheat.

Mr. GERSHAW: Suppose it were after the first of July, would he qualify for his summer-fallow bonus? Suppose it is black at that time, and later on he sows a cover crop to use it for winter feed.

Mr. GARDINER: I suggest that he had better get rye this year if he wants to collect.

Mr. QUELCH: If the land is summer-fallowed by the first of July and he applies for a bonus and is paid, then I take it that so long as he signs the agreement that he will not thresh any crop off the land that year, he could, if he wished to do so, on July 15 sow wheat as a cover crop. He could do so so long as he agreed not to thresh it, or he might pasture it. If he has summer-fallowed the land, he will not be penalized for having sown that cover crop.