

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: As regards these loans in May, this month, they were in part a direct loan but in greater measure they were simply renewals of old loans. The province had not been able to pay, and if the hon. gentleman thinks we ought to force Saskatchewan to pay now, he will have to consult the province.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I did not count the old loans; that would be additional.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: I beg your pardon—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I did not count the old loans in this. I am quite familiar with the difference between new notes and renewal notes. These are new orders. Let the ministry who have charge of it all give us the correct figures if I am wrong. Let the vote stand until we know what is going on, because we are entitled to know why all this money has been going out to Saskatchewan at this particular time and no assurance that any will be spent at all on grasshopper control. I would suggest to the members from Ontario that they check up on how much is going into that province just now. It would be just accidental of course, but it is an interesting study.

Maybe there will be enough out of the six millions loan to clear up the grasshoppers; if so it will be much better than was done last year otherwise the next flight will land the hoppers up into my hon. friend's constituency. On the west side of the province they are up to the north Saskatchewan, and they will be up through Melfort unless they are kept down this year much better than last. This six millions may do the trick, but I would suggest that they reserve a little bit for the grasshoppers and not all for the Grithoppers. The minister ought to make a statement before six o'clock. I notice that the press carried a beautiful statement from him last Saturday but that is all they did carry. Will they carry anything of this expense, I wonder. If so they will need to view it from a different angle. But I don't care a continental whether they do or not. That is for the benefit of the gallery.

The grasshoppers' eggs are deposited through Saskatchewan from the Manitoba boundary to the Alberta boundary, going up as far north in Manitoba as lake Manitoba, lake Winnipeg, east of Winnipeg and right out to the Saskatchewan frontier. If my hon. friend will consult his officers he will find that the area covered with grasshopper eggs and grasshoppers this year is four times

[Mr. Motherwell.]

as large—well, I will not say four times because I have not made measurements, but at least three times as large as last year. And this is due largely to the fact that the Saskatchewan government had not the poison dope to keep the hoppers down before they started their flight and were not supplied with any earmarked loan for hopper control by the federal government as has been done this year.

The statement my hon. friend made last Friday was not strictly accurate when he said it was not attributable to the neglect of the government. Whose neglect was it? It was a bankrupt province they were dealing with a year ago just as much as now, but it was not an election year, and the grasshoppers had their full swing with the result that we are faced now with an invasion three times as dangerous as we had a year ago. The minister gets out a nice statement indicating that he had an agreement or arrangement with the United States. But the United States government spent much money last year, on the fight against hoppers, and my hon. friend cannot tell me whether his own government contributed anything other than advice and supervision. It would be a relief to me to learn that he had, because that would exonerate them from some blame and the suggestion that they gave money for grasshopper control only in the year of an election. There are enough prospective grasshoppers now to eat sixty per cent of the entire crop in Saskatchewan, we are officially informed, but the minister hopes to save fourteen bushels out of every fifteen.

An hon. MEMBER: Grasshoppers?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I don't mean bushels of grasshoppers. He hopes to save, out of every prospective fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre, fourteen bushels. If he can do that he should be kept on as Minister of Agriculture from now until eternity, or at least until the grasshopper plague is over. Nobody has so far been able to do it and I shall be the first to congratulate the minister and his officials if they can. There is no doubt good work was done in the preparatory operations of last fall. As was pointed out, however, by the hon. member for Willow Bunch (Mr. Donnelly), the government officers were out advising, supervising, telling the farmers what to do—to plough deep and bury the eggs. Hon. members know the old ditty:

Plough deep while sluggards sleep
And you shall have corn to use and to keep.