

Mr. BRYCE: Once in twenty months and I can give the minister the exact dates because I was there. The advisory committee to the bacon board was pretty well a farce too. That was the previous one before you set up the meat board which now takes them all in.

Mr. GARDINER: There are two committees; one comes under the prices board and the other under the bacon board.

Mr. BRYCE: The new one that has been set up by the minister meets every two months. It is some good because the people know what is going on, but when a committee meets only once in twenty months you might as well have none.

Mr. WRIGHT: It seems to me that subsection 2 of section 9 is very weak. It states:

(2) In prescribing prices under paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection one of this section, the board shall endeavour to ensure adequate and stable returns for agriculture by promoting orderly adjustment from war to peace conditions and shall endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those from other occupations.

It says: "the board shall endeavour." Why do we not say: "the board shall"? As it stands, we are asking the board in a half-hearted way to "try" to do these things. If they succeed, all right. If they do not succeed, all right. It also says: "by promoting orderly adjustment from war to peace conditions." That refers to the transition period following the war. I am going to move an amendment to strengthen the clause. I move:

That subsection 2 be amended by striking out all the words after the words "the board shall" in the second line and substituting therefor the following: "ensure adequate and stable returns for agriculture by promoting orderly marketing and shall secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those from other economic activities."

Mr. COLDWELL: The subsection as it stands now is merely a pious hope. They shall endeavour to do something, but it does not say that they shall do it. The amendment suggested by the hon. member for Melfort, whether in his wording or not, is one that deserves some consideration. As it stands now, the provision is peculiarly weak.

Mr. GARDINER: It must be read along with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

For the purpose of this act, the board shall, subject to and in accordance with regulations made by the governor in council, have authority (a) to prescribe from time to time, with the approval of the governor in council, prices at which the board may purchase agricultural products in the market.

Then, we say that in prescribing prices under paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection 1

[Mr. Gardiner.]

of this section the board shall endeavour to ensure. I do not think we can say that the board shall ensure. They try to ensure that the prices arranged will produce the results suggested here, but to say that they shall produce those results would leave room for a difference of opinion as to whether they had done so or not, no matter what wording might be inserted. Endeavour is as strong as you can put it. After all, what they really do is this. They bring a recommendation to the minister; he has to take responsibility for saying whether they accomplished what they were endeavouring to accomplish; he recommends it to the government, and the government has to consider whether they have accomplished what they endeavoured to accomplish. The government makes the decision; then the matter comes back to the board and they put it into operation. It is about as strong as you can put it.

Amendment (Mr. Wright) negatived.

Section agreed to.

On section 10—Expenses.

Mr. MacNICOL: What is the system of checking expenses in a case of this kind?

Mr. GARDINER: All these expense accounts are checked by the auditor.

Mr. MacNICOL: Are vouchers submitted?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. They are all checked by the auditor under section 8.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. St. Laurent that subsection 2 of section 10 be amended by striking out the concluding words of the subsection, "two million dollars," and substituting therefor the words "two hundred million dollars."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. PERLEY: On subsection 3, this is the only provision under which there could be something with regard to participation certificates. As it reads now, there is certainly no provision for distribution of profits. I will not read the whole thing, but take line 35:

... provided that the net operating profit of the board in each fiscal year, as reflected in the said account, shall be deposited to the credit of the consolidated revenue fund as revenue.

Then further it is provided:

... that the net operating loss in any fiscal year may be recouped to the said account from moneys appropriated by parliament for the purpose.

Any profits that are made go into the consolidated fund. This is the only place