

## SECOND READING

and we pass them because we do not want to hold them up. But this is a controversial bill. There are many questions to be answered; I would like to ask some questions myself about it in committee. I have risen just to protest against leaving such an important measure as this for the day before prorogation.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Honourable senators, I too regret that situation, but I do not know what can be done about it. We adjourned our sitting yesterday afternoon waiting for the legislation to come forward so that we might consider it last evening. But it did not pass the House of Commons until a late hour.

**Hon. Mr. Davies:** Is it not a fact that in the other house several amendments were made to this bill?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** No. Some amendments were proposed but none were made.

In answer to the question raised by the honourable senator from Ottawa West (Hon. Mr. Connolly), I can assure him the problems which he has mentioned have already come to the attention of the minister and officials of the department and will continue to receive their attention.

While we are giving credit to those whose efforts have brought about this bill, I think I should not sit down without also expressing our appreciation to the Deputy Ministers of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Dr. Cameron and Dr. Davidson. Over the years they both have taken a great interest in hospital insurance, and I am confident that they will most carefully examine the agreements which are to be entered into between the federal Government and the provinces.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

## THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I move the third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL

## FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 403, an Act to amend the Agricultural Products Marketing Act.

The bill was read the first time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

**Hon. Austin C. Taylor:** I move the second reading now.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Honourable senators, I regard it as a distinct honour and a great opportunity and privilege to speak to this motion, particularly as it relates to marketing, a very important item in the field of agricultural development. I would ask the tolerance of honourable senators while I attempt to explain the bill. But before I do so I wish to review some of the circumstances which have led to the necessity for marketing legislation.

I think it is agreed that from time immemorial there have been two major problems in relation to the great and important industry of agriculture: first, that of production; second, that of marketing. In the field of production great strides have been made, particularly over the last 20 years. This progress has been due primarily to new techniques, research and experimentation, and the mechanization of Canadian farms. It has resulted in the farm people themselves as operators becoming familiar with the know-how of modern techniques in relation to production. We still have a long way to go, because there will always be changes, resulting from scientific research and so on; but at the moment, it seems to me, our greatest problem is in the field of grading, packaging and marketing.

I believe the first piece of legislation on marketing in Canada was passed in British Columbia in 1927. At that time the conditions in marketing processes were chaotic, particularly with respect to vegetables and fruit, and in desperation, because they were facing bankruptcy, the producers in British Columbia appealed to the Legislature to pass a provincial marketing act. The request was favourably received, and pursuant to the act of 1927 boards were set up and functioned reasonably satisfactorily until 1931. In that year a dispute relative to the jurisdiction or authority of these boards went before the courts; the act was declared *ultra vires*, and the boards ceased to function. In 1934 another marketing bill was introduced into and passed by the British Columbia Legislature, based on their experience of previous years and their conception of the kind of act which would be constitutionally valid. Before the act went into operation it was referred to the courts, by whom it was declared