

*Cold Storage Act*

such as they have in Australia, but we cannot install a cold storage in a small cheese factory without it being too burdensome to the institution. I think possibly that would be the ideal system, but it is impossible for the reasons I have indicated.

Mr. MARTELL: Will the hon. minister tell us what he intends to do regarding the establishment in the province of Nova Scotia of plants in which to experiment in regard to the cooling of fruit? We have a fruit growing country down there and I think at least we are entitled to something from the government for the encouragement of the fruit growing. The minister should do something in regard to experimentation there, if he does nothing else. I know he wants to do everything possible. I have every faith in the minister as have the fruit growers of the province of Nova Scotia. We have every faith also in the government; but we should like to know what is going to be done towards experimentation in Nova Scotia, where this year fruit was practically thrown out of doors, because we had no market, and the fruit rotted before we got it to the market.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think one of the first public acts that I was privileged to perform after coming down here, was to establish a pre-cooling plant in my hon. friend's constituency. Is it not Annapolis?

Mr. MARTELL: Hants.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Well, it was somewhere in the apple district. Representations had been made to my department in the direction of a pre-cooling plant, just like the small creameries referred to by the hon. member for East Hastings (Mr. Thompson). This pre-cooling plant could not stand the expense of a mechanical cold storage. Consequently it was supplied with ice-cooling appliances; but as this was done somewhat late in the year, the ice did not last as well although, as my hon. knows, the plant did excellent service. We have, I think, established the fact that it is good business to pre-cool in such cases, and do not hon. members think the next step would be for individuals concerned to get together and take advantage of the act providing for mechanical storage. We know pre-cooling is all right. The next step for Nova Scotia or any other province would be to organize a co-operative company and to get into touch with the officers of my department to find out the various steps to be taken until they are organized, and then to take advantage of this act. That would be the proper way, and I would be delighted

[Mr. Motherwell.]

to establish the very first one in Nova Scotia if they get busy before this amount of \$50,000 is exhausted.

Mr. MARTELL: I do not want to delay this bill, because I am absolutely in sympathy with the minister in everything he is doing; but I believe not only what he is proposing now should be extended to co-operative people or to government institutions, but there should be some arrangement whereby private individuals could secure the advantage of subsidies, because often the way for co-operative and other work must be paved by private individuals undertaking the matter. People have become sick and tired, in many cases, of their experience in co-operative methods; and if a few private individuals would get together and form a company, say under the Nova Scotia Joint Stock Companies' Act, or in some other way, I believe the minister should be prepared to assist those people. If he does that, eventually we shall have in Nova Scotia the very finest methods of marketing fruit, because the minister knows that Nova Scotia has the finest quality of fruit in the world, and especially is this true of Hants.

Mr. WALLACE: I am not clear whether this applies to a pre-cooling plant operated by a co-operative society in connection with fruit or to a freezing plant in connection with fish.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This act applies to mechanical cold storage only. There is a matter I overlooked. There is in another act provision whereby a small grant of \$100 for each factory can be applied for pre-cooling in just such institutions as were referred to by the hon. member for East Hastings. That is being taken advantage of. They obviously cannot put in anything except just straight ice or use what we call the brine system. That is not, however, what we are discussing here. This is mechanical storage; it can be used either for pre-cooling or for freezing.

Mr. MARTELL: Why is it proposed to take away from private individuals the benefit of this system?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We are not doing that. This is taken away now. The act as it is to-day applies only to municipalities. It was the late government that took it away from private institutions, and I think at that time they were correct. I have no criticism to make of them in that regard at all. The larger institutions built by private enterprise had received a great deal of assistance, and a new day has come now when