

*Unemployment Relief*

it was alleged by the employees and their representative that it had been secured by what they termed unconstitutional action.

Before a board could be set up it was necessary that an investigation should be made. This investigation was made and a strike vote was held. The result was in favour of a strike, and under those circumstances a board was set up after hearing the representatives of the employers and employed on May 28. They agreed on the appropriate chairman of the board. This decision was not made by the Minister of Labour. My recollection is that this decision was made reasonably early in June.

The employees were asking for one board, but the company was asking for three. The leader of the opposition referred to a shortage of office staff, but I think he made it quite clear that the shortage was in the offices of the three companies and not in the Department of Labour. They contended that they could not possibly prepare for all three boards in a reasonable time.

An effort was therefore made to secure a reduction in the number of boards. Since the order in council was passed on November 7 of last year, a great number of boards have been appointed. It is cheaper to appoint boards than to have strikes.

The employees and their representatives approached the Department of Labour with the thought that by proper consideration and consultation with the employers the time which might be involved in the sittings of the three boards could be considerably reduced. No later than last week a representative of this particular union which functions in all three branches of the industries took up the question of dealing with the three applications as one with the representative of the employees, with the deputy minister of labour. This was arranged, and last Friday there was supposed to be—unfortunately I have not heard whether it took place or not—a meeting between the representatives of labour and the employers.

I understand that the chairman of the board, who as I say was not appointed by myself as Minister of Labour but was agreed upon between the employers and the employees, was in Halifax. My advice is that the board is now functioning. I say that with this qualification, that my advice came from the best possible source but I cannot guarantee it to be reliable. I shall, however, bear in mind the observations of the hon. leader of the opposition and see that everything possible is done to expedite the matter.

When we have passed an order in council requiring consideration by a board before any strike or lockout takes place, I think the least

[Mr. McLarty.]

this department can do is to see that the board functions with expedition and as rapidly as possible. I regret the delay that has occurred. I do not place any responsibility for it upon anybody whatsoever, because this has been the most complicated situation concerning the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act with which I have had to deal. I hope that the board will start to function at the very earliest possible moment, and I shall be glad to see that this is done.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR AGREEMENTS WITH COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND PROCESSORS—CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 24, to amend the Agricultural Products Cooperative Marketing Act, 1939.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the amendments made by the senate are similar to those which were made to the Cooperative Wheat Marketing Act. The first section of the bill has been dropped; that does not change the meaning at all. Then "one only cooperative plan" has been substituted for "a cooperative plan" in line 7, page 2 of the bill, and wherever else it occurs throughout the bill. Those are the only changes made by the senate, and we are prepared to accept their amendments.

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

## SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Vien in the chair.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Experimental farms service.

12. Experimental farms administration, \$60,305.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Did we dispose of item 11 last night?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have not looked at *Hansard*, and I am not sure whether the minister replied to my question last night about completing the laboratory at Fredericton. I did want to get an answer to my question.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): If I might revert to that item for a moment, Mr. Chairman, the department is