

and "fancy," as in the United States is preferable to our system of grading apples as No. 1 and No. 2, then, of course, the packages will be marked accordingly.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I repeat my question—is it the intention to make the grades here the same as the United States grade, "extra fancy," "fancy," "choice" and so on?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes, I thought I had made that quite plain.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Motherwell thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 11, to regulate the sale and inspection of fruit and fruit containers.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SEED INSPECTION

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to bring in a measure to regulate the testing, inspection and sale of seeds, and to provide for the regulation of the sale of clover, grasses, seed grain and fodder seeds, rape, field root and garden vegetable seeds in lots of over one pound, of one pound or less, and of seeds for export when purporting to have been inspected and graded; for the regulation of the importation of seeds; for the fixing of the powers and duties of inspectors, the time limit for complaints, the method of taking official samples, of making official reports and the publication of the same; for the fixing of penalties in connection with the violation of the act, the liability of certain purchasers, the costs of proceedings, the rights of civil process, and the evidence acceptable in all cases.

Motion agreed to and House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I should like to make a short explanation. The original Seed Control Act was passed in 1905. It was preceded by two years of considerable educational work and some opposition. When the bill finally did pass—I think my hon. friend the Minister of Finance will recall the circumstance—it caused a great deal of discussion and was a long while going through the House. It was the first and the most advanced act of its kind up to that date. However, it stood the test of time until finally in 1911 it was replaced by a new act embodying certain new features and bringing the legislation up to date. That act of 1911 has not been amended since and it is proposed that its place shall be taken by the bill based on the resolution now before the committee. Hon. members will naturally ask: In what respect does it differ? In 1911, when the last act was passed, it was the most advanced act of this nature. Other countries have however come up to its

provisions, and are now a little in advance of us. That is one argument why we should again take the act of 1911 and make it the basis of a new act. It is rather significant that the act has continued for this length of time and has never been amended, but instead of being amended from time to time it is now being repealed, and a new act has been framed containing the portions of the old act that were found to be good with such amendments as are deemed necessary.

The old act made the grading of grass and clover seeds obligatory. The new act extends that principle and makes the grading of cereals obligatory when sold in the ordinary way by the dealers, but it does not interfere with trading transactions between farmers. That is distinctly understood. If a farmer goes into the seed grain business and goes into advertising he will have to comply with the act, but with reference to transactions between farmers it does not affect them in any way whatever.

With regard to the grading of clover and grasses, the standards are fixed by statute exactly as the grades of wheat are. Then, with regard to the grading of cereals, in order to take care of the fluctuations in climatic conditions, the grades are fixed by an advisory board from year to year, in the same way as the standards board in the West regulates the standard grades of grain. I think my hon. friends from the West will understand the distinction. I will go more fully into it when the bill is in committee, but it is the same principle that obtains in regard to our commercial grains in the West. The grade of seed clover is fixed by statute and the cereals are regulated by the advisory board in the same manner as the commercial grades are regulated by the standards board. The law also provides for an advisory board which can be referred to from time to time instead of going to parliament for legislation as to details.

There is a departure here which I would like to put before the committee, as it was inserted entirely at the instance of the seedsmen and producers who were here about three weeks ago in conference on this question. Many of the members of the committee will recall at some time or other new varieties of grain being thrown on the market, given fancy names, advertised extensively, and sold at fabulous prices, when they probably had no commercial value whatever. I am sure there is not a farmer in the committee who has not been stung at some time in respect to some of these varieties of grain or grasses, particularly grain, because in order to prevent the exploitation, not only of farm-