

INSPECTION AND GRADING OF HAY.

On motion of Sir George Foster the House went into Committee on the following proposed resolution, Mr. Boivin in the Chair:

That it is expedient to provide for the inspection and grading of hay, the licensing of pressers of hay for sale or exportation, the charging of a fee of one dollar for such licenses, the labelling of pressed hay for sale, exportation or importation, the grading of straw, and the imposition of penalties for violation of the law.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Will the minister kindly explain?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: This is a new Bill, providing for consolidation of, and some amendments and additions to, the present Inspection and Sale Act. As regards the inspection and sale of hay and the grades of the same, in the East that has been law for some time. No grades have been established for hay in the western part of Canada, and this resolution provides for grades in that section of the country.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The same grades in the East and the West?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Oh, no, different grades. The grades established in the East, in the Bill to be introduced, are practically the same as they are at present. There will be new grades established for the West. Then there is provision for the inspection, which comes, of course, as a corollary from having grades fixed, and it is also proposed, for statistical purposes chiefly, to authorize the issuing of licenses for the pressing of hay to those who press hay for public sale and for export.

Mr. NESBITT: Do you mean to the man who presses hay, or to the farmer who gets it pressed?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: To the men who are pressers of hay, and that is the reason particularly for this resolution, in order to make provision for that change.

Mr. ELKIN: Mr. Chairman, in the East, at least, there is not any practical use for the law that now exists in connection with the inspection of hay. Hay is sold in the East both loose and pressed without any inspection. I would like to have further explanation as to the practical use of this resolution.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Inspection has previously been carried out in Quebec and in Ontario, and, I think, in other provinces; at least, there has been a provision for inspection which could be brought into force.

[Sir George Foster.]

I think that is true with reference to the East.

Mr. ELKIN: Not in the Maritime Provinces.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes, I think so. However, I will have fuller information upon the introduction of the Bill. This is simply the resolution on which to base the Bill.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I presume this new legislation must be necessitated by representations which have been made to my hon. friend to the effect that the present law was not sufficient. I have never heard that there was any complaint from the province of Quebec regarding the existing law. As I understand it this resolution is intended to extend the present law. The export of hay is of great importance in the province of Quebec as well as in other parts of Canada. If my hon. friend has any correspondence on this subject, any suggestions made to him by public bodies or others, I think he should bring it down. The matter is new to a great many of us, and the resolution provides for a very wide extension of the system of licensing. More information should be given.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: All the information in our hands will be brought down.

Mr. READ: The minister states that the inspection of hay applies in the East already. I think that is a mistake. At least, it does not apply to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. I think it only pertains to the province of Quebec.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Quebec and Ontario.

Mr. READ: Not in the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. PROULX: Will the pressers have to guarantee the quality of the hay?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There are grades of hay established. The inspectors fix the grades, and then those who press it have their duties to perform, which include pressing it properly, keeping out foreign substances, and putting their tags upon it to show the quality of the hay.

Mr. EDWARDS: I see no pressing need for this legislation in so far as the province of Ontario is concerned. I have no doubt, however, that there is probably some necessity for it in the Maritime Provinces, and no doubt the suggestion for this legislation emanated from the East, as I understand