

Supply—Agriculture

wan registered seed growers' association. He has said that it is a purely commercial organization. That is incorrect. The Saskatchewan registered seed growers' association is made up of between 1,000 and 1,100 farmers of the province.

Mr. ROWE: Only 750.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Between 1,000 and 1,100. It has been stated around the corridors for some time by those who oppose this vote that Mr. A. E. Mackenzie, a millionaire seedsman has described this as a purely commercial organization. The organization functions under a provincial charter, because a special act had to be passed in connection with this seed pool—for it is a seed pool—just the same as a special act had to be passed for the organization of the wheat pool, the Saskatchewan Wheat Producers, Limited.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: How is this comparable with the wheat pool, which is a truly cooperative organization?

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The Saskatchewan registered seed growers' association, or the seed pool of Saskatchewan, is more truly a pool than is the wheat pool.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): Is it not a joint stock company?

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): No. Like the wheat pool it was formed under a special act.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): I think I am right.

Mr. ROWE: Certainly it is a joint stock company.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Perhaps my hon. friends will allow me to proceed. All the members of the Saskatchewan seed growers' association have taken stock in the company. That stock was not taken with the hope of ever obtaining dividends, but merely as a donation to the organization and to forward membership in it. It is a non-profit organization so far as the company is concerned. The farmers all over the province who are growing registered seed have it inspected by the government seed inspector; it is shipped to this plant from all over Saskatchewan, the freights being pooled on the inward shipments; there it is again examined, cleaned, and sealed, and then it is sold at the lowest possible price to the farmer. Only a very small spread between the cost of the registered seed and the cost of ordinary wheat going into the market channels is obtained

[Mr. J. G. Ross.]

by the registered seed grower. Because we have not had the proper facilities in Saskatchewan for handling our pure seed, a good many hundreds of thousands of bushels of seed that should have been sowed in the province have gone into the ordinary channels of trade, and in that way the Dominion has lost a great deal of money and a great deal of crop each year. I compliment the minister on his foresight and his business ability in agriculture in loaning this building to an organization such as the Saskatchewan registered seed growers' association. In the past we have given large grants—never too large—in aid of agriculture. For instance, in connection with the bull loaning policy of the government thousands of dollars were spent every year. A vote of \$150,000 for a building to ensure pure seed for the greatest grain growing province in the Dominion is a drop in the bucket compared with the advantage that will accrue not only to the province but to the Dominion generally from the return of a better crop from better seed. My hon. friend objected because a farmers' association wanted to compete with private corporations. These private corporations have been active in Saskatchewan for the last thirty or thirty-five years.

An hon. MEMBER: Commercial interests.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Yes. Had they supplied the demand for good seed, or registered seed, there would never have been the necessity for forming the Saskatchewan registered seed growers' association. But seeing that that demand throughout Saskatchewan was not supplied, the farmers took it into their own hands, as they have done in regard to a great many other things in that province, and they are making a marked success of the organization. It is only a few years ago that they started into this business, and the production of registered seed in Saskatchewan has gone up by leaps and bounds ever since. My hon. friend stated that the Saskatchewan registered seed growers' association paid their manager \$5,000. That statement also is incorrect. The government of Saskatchewan in order to help an organization of this kind has supplied it with a man who costs the province \$5,000.

Mr. ROWE: He gets \$5,000 nevertheless.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): From the government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROWE: It does not matter.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I hope it will be continued.