

THE SENATE

Tuesday, May 30, 1939.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CANADA GRAIN BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. BLACK presented, and moved concurrence in, the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 62, an Act to amend The Canada Grain Act.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. BLACK presented, and moved concurrence in, the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 63, an Act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935.

He said: Honourable senators, as most of those who are now in the House were in the committee room when this Bill was under consideration, and as the amendments now presented have been discussed in this House as well as in the committee, I shall dispense with a reading of them.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL moved the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. W. M. ASELTINE: Honourable senators, this Bill is very important to the province of Saskatchewan, and I wish to bring before the Senate a point which I raised in the Banking and Commerce Committee this morning, and in relation to which I desire to move an amendment to the Bill before it is read a third time.

It will be remembered that when the Wheat Board last year had fixed an initial price of 80 cents a bushel f.o.b. Fort William, the province of Alberta took exception to what had been done, and that after considerable negotiation with the Vancouver Board of Trade, the mayor of Vancouver and the

farmers of Alberta, the board ruled that the people of that province should also benefit and should get for their wheat the price to which they would be entitled if it were shipped by Vancouver. The action taken by the Wheat Board last year in fixing the price f.o.b. Fort William was very much in favour of the province of Manitoba and against Alberta, and that is why the people of Alberta took exception to it.

The people of Manitoba are very fortunate. Those who live near Winnipeg can ship their wheat to Fort William for only 12 cents per hundred pounds, whereas from Saskatchewan, where I live, the rate is 25 cents, and from most parts of Alberta it runs anywhere between 26 and 30 cents.

When this Bill was brought down I objected to it because it provided that the price of 70 cents a bushel should be f.o.b. Fort William. This means that the farmers of Alberta are discriminated against. It means also that the farmers of Saskatchewan, who were discriminated against last year in favour of Manitoba farmers, are receiving comparatively unfair treatment again this year. Those of us who grow wheat in northern Saskatchewan have the advantage of a much lower rate than 25 cents per hundred pounds if the wheat is shipped to Churchill; and the Wheat Board can save a good deal of money by shipping to that port, because the storage rate there is only one cent a bushel, as compared with seven to eight cents a bushel at Fort William and Vancouver.

The point I am making is this. Last year the farmers of Manitoba whose wheat was shipped to Fort William, and those of Alberta whose wheat was shipped to Vancouver, were given a preference over Saskatchewan farmers whose wheat was shipped to either of these ports, and the same thing will happen this year if the present Bill passes as it is. I urge that something should be done for the forgotten man in the province of Saskatchewan. That Manitoba happens to be closer than Saskatchewan to the elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur is no reason why the Manitoba farmer should receive eight cents a bushel more than the farmer residing in Saskatchewan; nor is the fact that Alberta is closer than Saskatchewan to Vancouver any reason why the Alberta farmer should receive as much as four cents a bushel more for wheat than the Saskatchewan farmer does. Last year nearly 32,000,000 bushels were shipped by the Wheat Board to Vancouver. The farmer in Alberta naturally received for that wheat the price he was entitled to, f.o.b. Vancouver. But a much larger quantity was shipped from Alberta to Fort William, and the Alberta farmer was paid just as much for it as if it had been shipped to Vancouver.