

ment to continue having the large milling companies represented on the board to the disadvantage of the producers of foodstuffs, whose interests have been largely neglected.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My hon. friend will see that the section of the Bill provides for the appointment of a Canadian Wheat Board consisting of twelve members. The passage of this Bill does not commit the Government to any particular twelve men. What ever criticism therefore may have applied to the members of the board as it now exists does not necessarily apply to the new board, because it does not follow that these same men will be appointed in exactly the same proportion as regards the various interests which they are presumed to represent. However, I am bound to say that the Government made very careful choice of the members of the board, and to the best of their ability apportioned the nominees to the different interests involved; the producing interest—the wheat growers; the milling interest; the shipping interest; the consuming and labour interest. And although it is absolutely impossible to have any twelve men carry on operations of this kind and be immune from criticism and dissatisfaction, I think I may say, as having a pretty intimate knowledge of their work, that the operations of the board have given general satisfaction, and that there is a feeling in the country that they have given every one a fair deal.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) must remember that operations as extensive as these are, stretching over such a vast territory and dealing with so many varying interests, must necessarily cause more or less friction, all the more so because it was an unusual method of conducting the marketing of grain, and consequently brings up new and in some cases somewhat perplexing questions. On the whole I believe that through the operations of this board a better price was secured to the farmers and a more uniform passage of the wheat from the hands of the farmers to the ultimate consumers than could have been got in any other way. I believe also that the consumers of this country received their flour, and consequently their bread, at a cheaper rate than could otherwise have been the case; for it is indisputable that flour in this country has been from \$1 to \$2 and more cheaper on the run of the season than the price enjoyed by consumers in the United States.

I believe that those who have had the most intimate knowledge of the operations [Mr. Sutherland.]

of the board have the greatest confidence that the board has performed to very general satisfaction a very difficult duty requiring a great deal of executive capacity.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I admit that I have not that intimate knowledge of the operations of the board that some others may possess, and I am pleased indeed to know that the minister has such absolute confidence in the satisfaction which the board has given. As to the price of flour, I would again emphasize what I have already referred to, that the production of flour is not the only important feature of the grain trade. I pointed out that before the appointment of the Canadian Wheat Board mill feeds were purchasable at nearly one-half the price which has obtained since this board began its operations. Formerly there was a spread of only \$5 per ton between bran and shorts; whereas to-day by the fixation of prices the spread is \$10 per ton. It is well known to every one who has had any experience in stock-raising that that spread is altogether too great, considering the fact that there is a difference of only one per cent of protein between bran and shorts, and that that difference is largely made up by adulteration.

With regard to the personnel of the board, it has been stated by the minister that great care was exercised in selecting these men. I come from a part of Ontario where there is a great demand for certain of these mill feeds, and where wheat growing is carried on to a very great extent. It is well known that Western Ontario is a part of the province where farming is conducted with the best possible results. But strange to say, although I have made inquiries of hon. members from Western Ontario, and even from Central Ontario, I have never yet been able to find a single representative of the people who was consulted in regard to the appointment of the one solitary nominee from Western Ontario. I know that a few days ago that gentleman was caricatured by some of the agricultural journals as a farmer who was the laughing-stock of his neighbourhood. Pictures were shown of his buildings and fences, and a general "write-up" given of his whole history. I do not know whether that is correct or not, and I do not think that the writer of the article had any love for that particular member of the wheat board; but as a representative of the people of my constituency, I do want to say that when this Government selects men to deal with their property, as this board has been dealing with it, I consider that I am en-