

*Income War Tax Act*

suggesting will work out pretty well. As I say, if it does not, we will look into it again next year.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shall the title carry?

Mr. ABBOTT: There is not any title.

Mr. HANSELL: The minister will recall that I had an interview with him a few weeks ago. I am bringing this matter before parliament now so that, if possible, it may be discussed by members who represent farming constituencies. I do not bring this matter before parliament by way of criticism. I had a courteous interview with the minister, and in order to open the matter up for discussion he suggested that I might ask him the question on the floor of the house. It was with respect to the manner of collecting farmers' income tax. During the Easter recess I had a delegation of farmers wait on me asking if it would not be possible for farm income tax to be deducted at the source. I recognize that this might involve many intricate matters of administration, but I do not think it would be impossible to carry it out.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. I would call the hon. member's attention to the fact that it is out of order to discuss these matters now, when we are dealing only with the title. If the hon. member has the consent of the committee to discuss these points, I am in the hands of the committee; but I make this observation because someone else might want to discuss the same or another matter, and it would be out of order.

Mr. ABBOTT: May I ask my hon. friend if this was a discussion he had with me or with my colleague the Minister of National Revenue?

Mr. HANSELL: No, it was with the Minister of Finance, here in the chamber.

Mr. ABBOTT: Probably when my hon. friend gets a little further along with it I will recall it, but at the moment I cannot remember that particular conversation.

Mr. HANSELL: I am afraid it could not have made much of an impression upon the minister, though he even promised me that he would refer the matter to some of his officials.

Mr. ABBOTT: As the hon. gentleman goes along a little, I may remember it, but so many hon. members speak to me that my memory is not as good as it might be.

[Mr. Abbott.]

Mr. HANSELL: As a matter of fact I think I have stated my case. I recognize, Mr. Chairman, that it is a little odd to discuss this matter on the title, but this bill is with respect to income tax and it contains nothing covering certain particular situations. I believe there is also a matter with respect to resolutions of the farmers' union, to which the minister said he would reply. The delegation that waited upon me seemed to think this tax deduction at the source could be carried out, and they advanced a good many arguments in favour of their position. Certain deductions are now made, not for income tax purposes but for other reasons. For instance, certain deductions are made for the administration of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. This indicates that it is not impossible to make deductions at the source. I should like the minister to give some public reply to the request. He is nodding his head; evidently he now recalls the discussion. I know he is a very busy man; I know any finance minister having the administration of this country's financial policy has tremendous responsibilities, especially under this system.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HANSELL: I am not going to enter upon that discussion, though I notice the finance minister has moved a little farther away from this corner of the house since last night. I hope that is not too significant.

Mr. ABBOTT: That is just because they put the chairs here.

Mr. HANSELL: Then perhaps the minister would reply now.

Mr. ABBOTT: First, I must apologize to my hon. friend. I now remember clearly our discussion. I was a little confused as to what question my hon. friend was raising, but a moment later I realized that he was referring to the suggestion he made that farmers' income tax should be deducted at the source in somewhat the same way that deductions are made from salaries and wages. I did discuss that matter with the officials and also with my colleague the Minister of National Revenue; but, as regards the farm population generally, I am afraid it would be administratively impossible. It might and perhaps would work in the case of a farmer who is raising only one crop, such as wheat, and selling it all at a given point; but, for a man engaged in mixed farming, I am told, and I believe, that from a practical point of view it would be almost impossible to operate the same system as is followed in connection with salaries and wages. If it could be done I am sure nothing would