

THIRD READING.

Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

On the motion that the Bill do now pass:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: My attention has just been called to form A, the latter part of which says: "(or as the case may be) Returning Officer." If honourable gentlemen turn to clause 7 of the Bill they will find that it deals with the administration of oaths. The point raised is that it would be better that form A should read: "Returning Officer, or other person authorized to do so." Very often there is considerable confusion in regard to that oath and who may take it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As it did not occur to the Commons to change it, I think we had better leave it as it is.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: It may be one of those things that was not noticed. I thought it only right to call it to the attention of the House.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I think we had better leave it; it will not be an insurmountable difficulty.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Perhaps it could be arranged at another session.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was passed.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD BILL.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND REPORTED.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed the Senate went into Committee on Bill 206, an Act respecting the Canadian Wheat Board. Hon. Mr. Daniel in the Chair.

Sections 1 and 2 were agreed to.

On section 3—Wheat Board may be constituted:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I understand that the present Act remains in force up to the 15th of August this year. Is that correct?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I cannot inform my honourable friend definitely on that point.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Subsection c of section 2 of this Bill provides:

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN.

"wheat" in clauses 6, 7, 9 and 12 means wheat harvested in 1920 or other wheat delivered to the Board after the 15th day of August, 1920.

It is evidently intended that this Bill shall not come into effect until the 15th day of August.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is not in operation now. I understand that the business is now being controlled, and this provision does not come into operation until a proclamation is issued by the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: But is there not an Order in Council in operation at the present time, clearing up the work of last year?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I cannot speak definitely as to that.

Section 3 was agreed to.

Section 4 was agreed to.

On section 5—Board may make investigations, etc.:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Subsection 2 of this section might lead to the Government having to pay very large sums of money. If the board commenced operations late in the season, after the business had been running for say a month or six weeks, the members of the Wheat Exchange might find themselves very seriously hampered and very much injured in their business. It seems to me that it would be better if the Government were to fix a date and let the people know what is going to be done.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: My honourable friend at my right (Hon. Mr. Robertson), who is better informed in regard to this matter than I am, informs me that the Act on the statute book is now in force, and will remain in force for the handling of this year's crop.

Hon. J. H. ROSS: Up to what date?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: August, I understand. It is probably the date which appears on the face of the Bill, namely, August 15.

In regard to the assumption of loss by the Government, on a former occasion they assumed the same responsibility when the Wheat Board entered upon its duties. They are fully cognizant of what that loss will be, so they are not going to assume a liability of which they have no conception.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Has my honourable friend any figures to show what that loss has been in the past?