

*Canadian Livestock Feed Board*

assurance, but I would have been happier had safeguards been spelled out in the bill.

Answering a question I had put to him the other day, the minister intimated that the only grain which would be purchased in the east would be purchased through the Wheat Board. I may have misunderstood the minister in the answer he gave to the hon. member for Kent when he said that the board would have authority to purchase Ontario corn. Is there to be any purchase of Ontario corn by the Feed Board?

There are a few other things I wish to bring to the minister's attention. Perhaps he can clear them up. I have no quarrel with the board's purchasing Ontario corn, but I believe the minister could make it clear to the committee as to what authority the feed board has in these matters, so that when the bill is passed there will be no doubt about what kind of board we have set up. If the board is successful in eliminating speculation on western feed grain when it leaves the lakehead, it would assist both the eastern feeder and the western producer. If the available supplies of Ontario corn can be used before that commodity is imported from the United States, that would also be of great assistance to the Ontario producers.

If I am right in assuming that the feed board will be required to obtain a permit or a licence from the Wheat Board for the importation of foreign grains, the producers would be protected to a certain extent with respect to the prices and quantities of such imported grains. I am not sure whether this applies to imported corn which would enter Canada in direct competition with Ontario corn.

There is a danger, too, in putting the onus for the issuing of licences with respect to the importation of feed grain by the feed board on the shoulders of the Canadian Wheat Board. Asking the Wheat Board to assume responsibilities which are those of the government could in some circumstances, lead to difficulties between the two boards. No one can object to the feeders of British Columbia and eastern Canada having an agency that would eliminate higher costs caused by speculation with respect to grain and feed grain supplies; but the legislation is going to defeat itself if its purpose is to obtain cheap feed for the feeders in those areas at the expense of the producers of feed grains in Canada. I would hope that the board which we are setting up, while working in the interests of the eastern feeder, will also take into consideration the necessity of keeping

feed grain supplies in Canada up, to the extent that they are satisfactory to supply the market. The only way to do that is to act in all fairness not only to the feeder but also to the producer.

• (5:10 p.m.)

The other thing I wish to point out at this time, and I know I am repeating myself, is that while the Canadian Wheat Board is wholly supported by the producers in western Canada, and all expenses of the board are borne by the grain producers of that area, this new, proposed board is going to be paid for by the taxpayers of Canada. I do not think the taxpayers are going to object to this, provided the objectives of the bill are what they should be.

**Mr. Sauvé:** On that last point, about the expenses of the board being paid by the parliament of Canada, inasmuch as the board will take part in buying and selling operations, as provided by the bill, these operations will provide for the payment of expenditures by the board. It is only the part of the operations of the board which has to deal with the payment of freight assistance that is going to be paid by the people of Canada. The operations of the board that are similar in nature to the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board will have to be supported by the board itself.

**Mr. Muir (Lisgar):** Would that include the salaries of the members of the board?

**Mr. Sauvé:** Yes, and the administrative costs. With respect to the Ontario corn, I would point out that there is already an 8 cent duty on imported American corn. Probably the problem mentioned would arise if the American producers were dumping corn in this country; but then the anti-dumping laws would apply, which would be helpful to the Ontario corn growers who are making tremendous efforts to increase their production. At present there are discussions being conducted with the railways about agreed charges between Ontario and the maritimes. This will improve the position of Ontario corn in the maritimes, and probably after that in the province of Quebec.

**Mr. Muir (Lisgar):** Would this railway subsidy to the maritimes apply to Ontario corn as well as to western feed grain?

**Mr. Sauvé:** This has not yet been defined. It would have to be defined by the board administration. There is a technical problem