

On motion of Mr. Lapointe the bill was read the second time, and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

On section 1—Readjustment of pensions granted prior to July 7, 1919.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Would the minister consent to the word "may" being changed to the word "shall", and let all those who are entitled get the benefit of the provision?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The word "may" is usually employed as my hon. friend knows.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Under certain circumstances but not always in connection with matters which involve a judicial interpretation.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I have no objection to making the change; it is a question of taste.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

ROOT VEGETABLES ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend The Root Vegetables Act, chapter 43 of the statutes of 1922, and to provide,

(a) for a standard grade for onions of a uniform size, the abolition of the grade known as "sample quality" and the substitution of a grade to be known as "ungraded"; and for the definition of peeled onions;

(b) for permitting potatoes, onions, artichokes, beets, carrots, parsnips and turnips to be offered for sale by measure in quantities of one bushel or less instead of by weight, but the weight of the contents thereof shall be proportionate to the weight of the contents of one bushel of such vegetables, as prescribed;

(c) for making an inspection certificate signed by an official inspector prima facie evidence of the grade and condition of the vegetables or packages to which the certificate refers; and

(d) for exempting from the operation of the act certified seed potatoes only, as defined in the regulations under The Destructive Insect and Pest Act.

Motion agreed to and the House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

On paragraph (a):

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The vegetable growers of Ontario and of British Columbia have got together on this question of a grade for onions. It is not a matter that affects very many members of the House, but it is very important to the people concerned. They have come to a compromise on the subject, and have made the suggestion that

this be a fourth grade. This quality does not belong to the top grades; the top grades remain as they are. This will be an onion of lower quality and instead of it being known as a sample quality of Canadian onion—which is a mistaken name when there are so many Canadian onions of better grades—those concerned have decided that it shall be known as "ungraded". Then there is the matter of "peeled" onions. There is no grade called "peeled". Yet if an onion is treated in such a way as to cause a blemish, it is called a peeled onion and cannot go into the higher grades. We are providing for a more satisfactory definition.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What has been the difficulty in regard to onions under the grade "sample quality"?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The difficulty was this: These onions were going forward to Cuba, for example, under the grade of "sample quality" resulting in the impression that this was the highest quality of Canadian onion when there were three higher grades. In that way the reputation of Canadian onions was being injured. It was not the dealers but the producers that were making complaints. As far as British Columbia is concerned it was claimed on behalf of one section that it was orientals who were wanting to regrade these onions and send them forward under the grade "sample quality"; in other parts of Canada there was a desire to maintain the grade. It was thought better that these particular onions should be ungraded rather than go forward as sample Canadian onions. I think that when the bill goes to the committee and representatives of the vegetable growers are heard there will be no difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion. I saw a note in one of the newspapers indicating that we were going to have a grade called "peeled" onions, as if we were going to legalize such a grade, when, as a matter of fact, they are blemished onions.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think the minister ought to object to the use of the term "blemished." A peeled onion ought not to be a term of reproach.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: What does my hon. friend suggest?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think onions with a blemish ought not to be classed as "peeled"; we all prefer onions peeled.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Out on the farm we say "cleaned" onions. That is not quite as strong; of course we want to get away from these bucolic titles.