

Mr. PERLEY: You are suggesting now that when you come to that you would have primary producer representation?

Mr. GARDINER: That we put a provision in the bill that there may be producer representation on that committee.

Mr. WRIGHT: If you amend paragraph (j) that simply has reference to the advisory committee and it would be saying that the primary producers shall be represented on the advisory committee. I think we can all take that for granted. No government would appoint an advisory committee on which the primary producers were not represented. But my amendment was rather designed to see that the primary producers would be represented on the commodity boards.

Mr. GARDINER: We did not take it for granted in connection with the wheat board act. There was quite a battle over it.

Mr. COLDWELL: But is there not a difference here? Paragraph (i) refers to commodity boards and paragraph (j) refers to the board, meaning the agricultural prices support board.

Mr. GARDINER: The advisory committee is adviser to the board and to the minister. The advisory committee is called in to discuss all matters of importance relating to such questions as: Should this product be brought under this bill? That would certainly be discussed with the advisory committee. Then, after they have discussed it, the next question would be: How are we going to handle it? If the board in consultation with the advisory committee says: We will handle it by commodity boards, then the question will arise: How are we going to constitute that board? I would think the representatives of the producers on the advisory committee would hold the view in most cases that there should be a representative of the producers on the commodity boards and would so state. Wherever it would be possible to have the primary producers represented, I think you would get that representation. But there might be a case where the advisory committee and the board and the government would all think: We need only a board of one, and here is the man. It might be a producer or someone else. We should be free to do that; we should not be compelled to do the other.

Mr. WRIGHT: It was not my intention that the government should be restricted to commodity boards, and if my amendment has that meaning I ask leave to withdraw it so that I can move another that expresses my meaning more clearly.

Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. WRIGHT: I move, Mr. Chairman, that clause 9 be amended by adding the following words to paragraph (i) thereof:

Provided that any board appointed under this subsection shall include representatives of the primary producers.

Mr. GARDINER: I am afraid that if the hon. member presses that amendment I must ask the committee to vote it down. I do not think we should be absolutely compelled to put a man on, no matter what the circumstances may be. If the hon. member withdraws his new amendment and would move an amendment to paragraph (j), it would be just as satisfactory from his point of view, I think, because it would get the same results.

Mr. WRIGHT: I cannot see that because paragraph (j) applies only to the advisory committee and my object is to see that there should be representatives of the primary producers on these commodity boards when they are set up by the government, representatives not only on the advisory committees but on the boards themselves.

Mr. GARDINER: I think there will be in most cases.

Mr. WRIGHT: Then what objection is there to the amendment?

Amendment (Mr. Wright) negatived.

Mr. BRYCE: With regard to paragraph (j) I want to ask about the advisory committee that is to be set up in connection with this board. Will it be like the big committee there is now in connection with the food board, or is it to be like the committee in connection with the bacon board, or will it be like the advisory beef committee to the meat board, between the last two meetings of which there was an interval of twenty months, which was not any good? When that advisory committee did meet, the board had pretty well made up its mind what it was going to do, and it brought the advisory committee here from away across the western provinces and told them what it thought should be done. The trouble we have had in the meat situation in Canada in the last eighteen months has been due to the fact that the advisory beef committee let twenty months pass between meetings. It was no good.

Mr. GARDINER: Which committee is the hon. member speaking of? There are two of them.

Mr. BRYCE: The advisory committee to the meat board.

Mr. GARDINER: I think it met oftener than that.