

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

will do this", but has the minister any specific measures in mind and action to be taken to force speculators who, at all times, want to take advantage of some scarcity to increase prices to farmers, and consequently to consumers?

Each year, in the past, there have been fluctuations in the grain supply, and invariably, it has always been the farmer who has had to suffer. Therefore, I make a particular recommendation to the minister that he give immediate consideration to the adoption of the necessary measures ensuring that farmers will not find themselves at the losing end once again in this matter.

I would also like to take the opportunity to ask the minister to give particular attention to the recommendations which were made a few moments ago by the members for Springfield and Medicine Hat (Messrs. Schreyer and Olson). It is unfortunate that in the past so little attention was given to the family farm. Without a family farm, particularly in eastern Canada, it would be very doubtful that we would be in a position to keep the farming industry operating on a sound basis. Therefore, it is high time for us to see that the large industrialized farming concerns are not the ones who will benefit the most from our feed grain legislation. Special arrangements must be made to ensure that the small family farm is protected at all times. The need is pressing and the minister must give the matter his whole attention. As I said a while ago, I fully agree with the statements made by the hon. members for Springfield and Medicine Hat (Messrs. Schreyer and Olson).

Mr. Sauv : Mr. Chairman, the problem of feed supplies is obviously a major problem. I trust the establishment of a Canadian Livestock Feed Board will enable us to meet the situation should there be, by chance, a considerable decrease in supplies next winter, specially in the province of Quebec.

Nothing at the present time leads me to believe that there will be a shortage of feed grain in the province of Quebec in the coming months.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I have read the clauses of that bill, especially clause 5 which deals with the powers given to the Canadian livestock feed board and there is one thing I would like to call to the attention of the minister and ask him to elucidate because there does not seem to be a clear answer in the bill.

[Mr. Ricard.]

The commissioners who will be appointed, the members of the Board, if they are men of vision, will want to provide for the prosperous and the lean years that can be expected. The story of the fat years and the lean years in the Bible has been repeating itself since the beginning of time. So the members will probably concern themselves for instance with experiments made by research boards, public or private, to improve the land and possibly reclaim land which is not very suitable for that kind of farming.

To illustrate clearly what I have in mind, I will give the minister one example. For instance, a company recently discovered that if it is possible to raise poor quality farm land because it lacks enough humidity and to spread under it a layer of asphalt, 3 or 4 feet deep, to retain the humidity, the production, the yield of the acreage can be changed completely. That is an experiment which could be useful and interesting to prevent lean years, if need be. There are others also.

I would like to ask the minister if that board will be empowered to apply on a large scale the results of positive studies or will the board simply have to consult the Department of Agriculture to do such things? Or will the board be able to obtain from the government the authorization to conduct an experiment on a larger scale after the initial research has given positive results?

Again, to prevent lean years, will it be the responsibility of the board to ensure that feed is available to meet the needs of livestock feeders, and not only for the current year? I imagine that it will want to provide for the coming years also.

Mr. Sauv : Mr. Chairman, to the extent that the board must make sure that feed grain is available to meet the needs of livestock feeders, so the board can certainly favour any action of the kind mentioned by the hon. member for Trois-Rivi res (Mr. Mongrain). He has already told me about it and I find it very interesting.

[English]

Mr. Moore: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not only do I share the concern of the hon. members for Medicine Hat and Springfield but I do not feel we should be asked to vote on a bill without any real or concrete assurance that the problems they mentioned will be dealt with.

I have a further concern and that is about the relative positions in which this bill will place the eastern and western feed growers.