

riding we had nine boys killed at war in the last week alone. Farmers do not want prosperity like that. We want to get back to the basis where we have a square deal and a fair price. No farmer wants to charge extortionate prices. I hope that this bill will result in a square deal and fair prices. Let us make whatever amendments may be necessary to bring that about. If the bill does not do that you are going to come to the end of your tether and we shall be back where we were. I hope the minister will take that into consideration.

Mr. GARDINER: I think the authorities under the bill will have those considerations in mind.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—Agricultural prices support board.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: It seems to me that subsection 1 is loosely drafted. I should like to know whether or not the meaning of this clause is that the board shall be subject to the direction of the minister, or alternatively, that the board shall only be set up should the minister so direct. If the minister will answer my question I will make my suggestion.

Mr. GARDINER: The meaning is that the board in its operations will be under the direction of the minister, and through him under the direction of the government.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Then I suggest that the clause as drafted does not convey that meaning. I suggest that it should read as follows:

There shall be an agricultural prices support board consisting of three members, including a chairman and a vice-chairman, to be appointed by the governor in council and who shall hold office during pleasure, which board shall be subject to the direction of the minister.

It appears to me that the clause, as drawn, is capable of only one meaning, that the board shall not obligatorily be set up but rather shall be set up only on the direction of the minister.

Mr. GARDINER: The clause was drafted in the justice department. The Minister of Justice is here. The clause reads:

There shall be, under the direction of the minister, an agricultural prices support board. . . .

It does not give the minister any part in setting up the board.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I think it is loosely drafted.

Mr. GARDINER: I think it means what it is intended to mean, but the other would mean that, too.

Mr. GRAYDON: The change suggested by the hon. member for Lake Centre is a very simple one and would make the clause absolutely clear. I am impressed with his suggestion, which would involve adding no new words but simply be a transposition of one part of the clause. Or you might say: "There shall be an agricultural prices support board under the direction of the minister," and so on. I do not know whether that meets my colleague's suggestion, but I think that the clause is badly drafted. I am quite sure that the Minister of Justice had no personal responsibility for it.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, the Minister of Justice had no personal responsibility, but he would not like to admit that it was bad drafting. There can be no serious objection, I think, to adopting either the suggestion made by the hon. member for Lake Centre or the suggestion made by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. GRAYDON: They were both intended to cover the same thing.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: As I listened to them I thought the directions of the minister were not coming in at quite the same place. I am sure that we are all agreed as to what is intended, and if it is felt by any members of the committee that the clause will be clearer by putting the words at the place suggested I would be prepared to move accordingly.

Mr. GARDINER: That would be to insert "under the direction of the minister" directly after "board", so that it would read:

There shall be an agricultural prices support board under the direction of the minister, consisting of three members. . . .

And so on.

Mr. MICHAUD: I move accordingly.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: In view of the great responsibility which the board will have and the necessity of assuring the farming population of Canada that the interests of agriculture will be properly looked after by the board, I make the suggestion that one of the appointments to this board should be that of a member of organized agriculture such as the Canadian Council of Agriculture. I know that suggestion has been made in the past and I pass it on to the minister at this time. With regard to subsection 2 of section 3,