

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It is time for us to quit playing petty politics and get down to a business basis. You cannot expect the industrialists of eastern Canada to sell their manufactured goods at less than cost; they will not do it. You cannot expect chain stores to sell at less than cost; they would close up, they would let the people of this country starve to death before they would consent to sell below cost. But we are asking the farmers to do that very thing, to keep on producing and producing, spending all their time and the little savings they have to produce below cost. The time has come when they cannot go on any further. I appeal to eastern members to look at this problem in a businesslike fashion. I assure them that no western member will vote against a bill to give the eastern agriculturist his costs of production, and I hope they will be big enough not to vote against any bill or suggestion from this side that will give the wheat growers at least their production costs.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I am again on my feet with reference to that famous expression "next preceding," which, as you know by this time, is like a red rag to my legal eye. I move:

That section 2, paragraph (c) (iii) be amended by striking out in line 31 the word "next" and substituting therefor the word "immediately."

Mr. GARDINER: Agreed.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I believe that last night we were all agreed that the comma after the word "grain" in line 8 should be dropped.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. I am informed that it is not necessary to make a motion. It will be dropped. I think the proper place to discuss what we have been discussing lately is the next section, if we can get section 2 passed.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 3—Payment to selling agency.

Mr. CLARK (Essex): This bill may not be satisfactory to other agricultural producers, but it strikes me that it should be of real service to the tobacco growers, at least in times of emergency. I am sorry that the hon. members for Norfolk and Oxford are not in their seats; I believe they are ill; but the hon. member for Haldimand is close enough to the tobacco area to appreciate, I assume, that this bill will be really beneficial to the tobacco industry in times of emergency.

Mr. SENN: I am afraid it is too late.

[Mr. C. E. Johnston.]

Mr. CLARK (Essex): That may be found out this fall if this bill passes.

Section agreed to.

Section 4 agreed to.

On section 5—Officers, clerks and employees.

Mr. BARBER: What does the minister mean by "such officers, clerks and employees"? Section 5 states that:

The governor in council may appoint such officers, clerks and employees as may be deemed necessary for the efficient administration of this act.

Would those be Ottawa or local appointments?

Mr. GARDINER: They will be appointed in Ottawa to administer the act here.

Mr. BARBER: I do not think it will ever be administered in British Columbia.

Mr. GARDINER: In any case it will be administered from here.

Miss MACPHAIL: How are we going to train the farmer to understand cooperation if this measure is administered from Ottawa?

Mr. GARDINER: This bill provides for the paying out of money, after it comes into operation, by the federal government, and there will have to be some office staff in order to check on these organizations. Section 6 provides for audits of their accounts and that sort of thing, and those audits will have to be filed here. We shall have to have a staff to take care of the administration.

Mr. BAKER: It seems that every bill the government brings in provides for a great big organization which will eventually make more jobs for government employees in the city of Ottawa.

Miss MACPHAIL: I am almost inclined to agree, as far as this is concerned. The only benefit that this bill can provide, so far as I can see, is the initial money advance; but what the farmer will save by getting the money he needs at the time, without borrowing, will be offset to a great extent if there is going to be a large organization set up, which will be—

Mr. BARBER: Overhead.

Miss MACPHAIL: Yes, but I am thinking particularly of the additional employees in Ottawa.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not expect that this bill will be any further assistance to a co-operative organization than to help it in financing. I have in mind at the moment one