

ing has taken place, for the purpose of paying liabilities incurred in respect of that threshing, and his other farming operations, and also for the payments of accounts incurred during the summer.

In the West the period between the termination of harvesting operations and the commencement of the winter is short. For that reason the farmer ought to be permitted to devote as much time as he can to fall ploughing and to preparing for his next year's crop. At present the only way in which he can pay his liabilities which ordinarily amount to perhaps fifty per cent of the threshed crop is by selling that crop; and, in order to do that, he must during the time I have mentioned haul his grain to market, and that takes up a large portion of his time. This Bill is intended to obviate that, and give him the opportunity of taking his grain to market when he thinks proper. It gives the further advantage that all these loans are made on the pledge receipt, which is a very simple document, and thus obviate the necessity of chattel mortgages, legal and registration fees, the cost of discharges, and such like. It will also obviate the necessity of the farmers hauling hurriedly their grain to the railway stations to be disposed of there, which, as we know, creates congestion, not only at those railway stations, but all along the line. Moreover, it gives the farmer the opportunity of disposing of his grain when he thinks proper, and he is best able to judge of the time when it should be disposed of. Meanwhile he can store it without cost on his own farm.

Mr. MACLEAN: Does the hon. member include live stock in his amendment? There are a great many farmers in the West who do not grow grain, but who raise stock, and if his amendment is of assistance to the grain grower, I think it ought also to cover the raiser of live stock.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: I do not know the purport of the amendment which the hon. gentleman has proposed; but I may say for his information and for the information of the hon. member who has asked in regard to live stock, that both the matters referred to have had the consideration of the Government, and will be embodied in the revised Bank Act which I propose to bring down. That being the case, I leave it to my hon. friend from Brandon either to allow his Bill to go to the first reading, or to be withdrawn, as he may deem proper under the circumstances.

Mr. AIKINS: It should have the first reading at all events, as it is before the House.

Mr. AIKINS.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Mr. CURRIE moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the Criminal Code. He said: At present there is no penalty attached to the act of an alien who takes part in our elections either by voting or otherwise. The first clause of this amendment provides as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars and, in addition thereto to imprisonment for a term not less than six months, and in default of payment of such fine to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year who, not being a natural born British subject or not having been naturalized as a British subject in Canada: (a) votes or attempts to vote in any election for any public office under the Dominion or provincial law; or, (b) who interferes with or intimidates any person entitled to vote at such election; or (c) takes part in any such election by canvassing, driving voters to the poll or taking part in a public meeting; or, (d) writes, issues or circulates any document pertaining to such election.

Section 2 provides:

Any fine so recovered shall be payable half to the informer and half to His Majesty for the use of Canada.

This is a matter in relation to which I speak from personal experience. American citizens took part in the last election in the riding I represent. Not only did they interfere with the election, but they had the hardihood to come into my riding and even to stand on the public platform alongside the Prime Minister of that day and call upon the electors in my riding to defeat me. I think a stop should be put to that sort of thing; and, as the Election Law does not make provision for it, we are compelled to reach it in another way. I understand that under the laws of the provinces of the West a man does not have to be a British subject in order to vote. Therefore we must reach these people by the proper means, that is by the Criminal Code.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Rainville, for an Address to His Royal Highness, the Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier thereto.

Hon. W. T. WHITE (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in the course of his remarks yesterday, my right hon. friend