

charges and expenses of the company, in and about such petition and proceedings, shall form a lien upon such shares, bonds, debentures, obligations, dividends, coupons or proceeds, and shall be paid to the company before the directors shall be obliged to transfer, or assent to the transfer of, or to pay such shares, bonds, debentures, obligations, dividends, coupons or proceeds to the parties found entitled thereto.

It strikes me that that is a most unusual enactment. It means that if the directors have any doubts as to whether a shareholder is entitled to shares or a depositor to certain moneys, these directors may file a petition, and, if the court holds that their doubts were reasonable, even though the party wins the suit and is awarded the property in question, he may still be made liable for the costs. As I say, it is a very unusual proceeding, but there is precedent for it, and when this Bill passes there will be still another precedent.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

WAYS AND MEANS—RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

House again in Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Chairman, when the committee rose at six o'clock I had pointed out to the House the probability that if we established closer relations with the United States in commerce, in social, professional and official life, the tendency would be for the larger nation to dominate the smaller, for the 95,000,000 of the United States to influence the 8,000,000 people of Canada, so that we would become more like them and lose our own identity. I had also dwelt on the injury likely to be inflicted on the farmers of Canada by giving access to the Canadian market to the stockraisers of the United States. I had pointed out that it will injure the meat-raising industries of the country as it did in 1885 to 1890. It will also injure them in another way.

By the importation from the western country into Ontario and Quebec of the grain necessary to keep our millers going we have more food supply for our cattle and hogs down here. We have 300 flour mills going in Ontario and the upper portion of Quebec that are supplied with a large portion of the grain they grind from the west every year, and the stock feeders of Ontario and Quebec will use up all the offal, the bran, shorts and coarse flour. They bring thousands of cars of this feed from these western provinces in addition to that produced down here. Will we have the same system that we have now when

Mr. PUGSLEY.

that grain goes across to the American market? We are not likely to have it. If the grain of the west is ground in the mills of Minneapolis and St. Paul the offal will not be brought to Canada, and the Canadian farmer and feeder who requires it so much for the growing and fattening of his stock will be deprived of it. It is another source of supply that will be taken from him; it is another handicap that will be placed upon him in carrying on this operation out of which he makes money. It will very seriously injure him, as well as injure the millers of the country. These 300 mills are obliged to get grain from the west to keep their mills running for about six months in the year. I know something of the business, because I was in it for a short time some years ago, and I found that we were obliged to import from the west sufficient grain to keep our mills running for nine months in the year. Of late years we have been growing more grain in Ontario, and perhaps it is only necessary to bring down grain enough to keep them running for six months in the year. But the flour that seems the most saleable, the strong bakers' flour, is made from the hard wheat of the west and the soft wheat of Ontario mixed in equal quantities. Therefore, the Ontario and Quebec miller requires that western wheat to make the quality of flour that the Ontario people desire to have, and they require to get it to keep their mills running as well. They have a large amount of wealth invested in these plants, and unless their mills are running fairly up to their capacity they stand to be seriously injured. The harder you make it for them to get that grain from the west and the more grain that goes to Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis the more difficult it will be for them to meet the supply down here, and the less there will be of offal from the grinding of that grain to supply the farmers of this country. In that way it will seriously injure our country. I am speaking especially of Ontario, the conditions of which I know something about. If this arrangement is carried out it will strike a very serious blow at the interests of the millers, as well as the stock breeders and farmers.

Then, it will injure the stock raisers generally by a serious reduction in the amount of feed that they will be able to get. But it will injure them in another way. If you make it possible for cattle, sheep and horses to be transported across the line free of duty, what will be the result? With a plentiful supply of corn in the west there is a great demand for our young cattle for the purpose of feeding them there. Why? Because if they have a large supply of feed and they are short in their supply of cattle, our young cattle will be purchased in the northwest and in other