

Export Credits Insurance

tioned in either the bill sponsored by the Minister of Agriculture or that sponsored by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Then we have bill 168, which is to be considered next, and which sets up a board to buy and sell farm products. Now we have one suggested by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. We will have three boards marketing agricultural products, and I think we should have a definite statement as to how they will cooperate and what understanding there will be between them.

Mr. GARDINER: My understanding is that the bill to be founded upon this resolution will be a bill to establish credits. It will be recalled that at the end of the last war there were credits arranged with certain countries to which we wanted to send certain products, one of which was wheat. It may be necessary to make certain financial arrangements in order to make it possible for a country to buy our products. As far as the agreements in connection with the products discussed a few moments ago are concerned, that is, bacon, cheese, butter, canned milk and things of that kind, they are made under the boards now set up and they will be continued to be made in that way at least until the end of the war. There is a possibility that may be carried on in the same way from then on, provided that other countries wish to deal in that manner. If Britain still wants to buy surplus products direct from the government, then I suppose we will try to sell to them in that way, and boards may be set up through the agency of the legislation which I am bringing down in connection with floor prices arrangements.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I have just been advised that there is no limitation on the type of products.

Mr. STIRLING: Natural products or anything like that?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No limitation on the products.

Mr. RALSTON: Obviously the resolution does not limit it by its terms; it is Canadian-produced products.

Mr. STIRLING: The minister stated—

Mr. RALSTON: I am simply saying that the resolution does not limit it. The minister said that he was speaking without his assistants before him and without the bill before him, but I am pointing out to the committee that if they pass the resolution its terms are not necessarily limited to manufactured products; it covers Canadian-produced goods.

[Mr. Perley.]

Mr. STIRLING: I agree entirely with what the Minister of National Defence has said, but what he and others do not seem to understand is that some of us come from constituencies far away. We are in the dying days of the session, possibly, and unless we can get some definite information at this stage we will have no opportunity of understanding the bill nor shall we be able to send it out until it has been introduced.

Mr. RALSTON: I am suggesting that the resolution is not restricted to manufactured goods, so that the committee or the house would not be debarred when the minister brings down the bill from pointing out that they have not tied their hands by passing the resolution. The resolution in its terms is wide enough to cover everything, including farm products. I got the impression that the committee felt that in passing the resolution in this form they would debar themselves from asking afterwards that farm products be included. I am pointing out that that is not so, that the wording is wide enough to cover all products.

Mr. GREEN: Is it the intention that all goods, manufactured or otherwise, shall be covered by the bill?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am so informed.

Mr. BURTON: If it is at all possible, we should have this bill in our hands in ample time.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am informed that the bill is printed and will be distributed.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. MacKinnon (Edmonton West) thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 178, to incorporate the Export Credits Insurance Corporation and to promote the revival of trade by the provision of dominion government guarantees to encourage exports from Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION

EXTENSION OF OPERATION OF ACT—FURTHER PROVISIONS AS TO CONTRIBUTIONS, ETC.

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 171, to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Mr. G. J. McILRAITH (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. ROSS (Souris): A reversal of form.