

Agricultural Products Act

minister has been in Alberta during the past week, and in view of the various statements appearing in the press—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Wylie: In view of the various statements appearing in the press about an agreement being signed between the dominion and provincial governments with respect to the St. Mary-Milk river project, will the minister tell the house whether that agreement has been signed?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my answer, as briefly as I can give it, is no. Perhaps, however, I should say something more than that. A verbal agreement was reached at Edmonton, and I left officials there to work with officials of the provincial government in the drafting of an agreement which we have said we will sign.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT**EXTENSION OF OPERATION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR**

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Agricultural Products Act to extend the operation of the act for a period of one year.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have discussed with representatives of the groups on the other side of the house the procedure which I hope will be agreed to, and with which those with whom I discussed the matter are in agreement. This is a resolution on which will be based a bill to amend the Agricultural Products Act to extend the operation of the act for a period of one year.

The original act, passed in 1947, provided that the contracts which were entered into during the war could be carried on following the war. The legislation has applied only for twelve months at a time, and therefore on three occasions we have passed a bill similar to the one which will be introduced providing that the act shall continue in existence for a further period of one year. That is all there is in the bill to be presented.

I realize that that raises the possibility of a discussion of the British contracts, and some hon. members may wish to have a rather free discussion. I would point out that I am hoping to introduce another resolution in connection with the Agricultural Prices Support Act. The introduction of that resolution would permit the discussion of everything that we might discuss under this resolution, and probably the British agreements as well.

[Mr. Wylie.]

What we do under that act has been done to replace what was being done under the other.

If it meets with the unanimous consent of the house I suggest that this resolution be permitted to go through, and that the bill to be based upon it be passed through its various stages; we could then proceed immediately to discuss the other resolution. I was going to suggest that Mr. Speaker do not interfere with us when we are discussing the other resolution as he might if we were to attempt to discuss certain matters under this resolution and other matters under the other. Otherwise we would probably be called to order, and quite properly.

I think we would get along better if we discussed everything under the other resolution and the bill which will be based thereon. I hope this procedure will meet with the approval of members of the opposition. If so, we could get this legislation through quickly and on its way to the Senate and then have our discussion on the next resolution. I am not pressing this if it does not meet with approval; I am only suggesting it.

Mr. Wright: So far as we are concerned we would be quite prepared to let the resolution go through its necessary stages today, but I do not think we would be prepared to let the bill go through. It could be given first reading and then come up for second and third readings tomorrow.

Mr. Gardiner: Allow it to go through and it can be called for second reading later.

Mr. Charlton: We in this group are prepared to let the resolution go through today and give first reading to the bill, but not to go any further at this time.

Mr. Fair: That position is agreeable to us.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Gardiner thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 16, to amend the Agricultural Products Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES SUPPORT ACT**PROVISION FOR CONTINUATION IN FORCE ON AND AFTER MARCH 31, 1950**

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide that the Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944, shall continue in force on and after the thirty-first day of March, 1950.