

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

Clause 5 of the present bill provides the means proposed by the board to solve the problem:

Objects, powers and duties.

The objects of the Board are to ensure

(a) the availability of feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;

(b) the availability of adequate storage space in Eastern Canada for feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;

(c) reasonable stability in the price of feed grain in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia and

(d) fair equalization of feed grain prices in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia.

In clause 6:

The Board may, in furtherance of its objects, (a) make

(i) payments related to the cost of feed grain storage in Eastern Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member who is now speaking to remind him that when considering this bill on second reading, he cannot refer in his statement to particular sections of the bill. I do not wish to restrict him too much, but in general, I know that he will take this suggestion in consideration.

Mr. Godin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At any rate, I was going to mention that the board will pay grants. May we hope that a grain trade in receipt of more remunerative grants will give better results? Will this announcement of grants not entail a price increase?

We are wondering about it, because following the generosity of the Quebec government in this connection, prices keep rising ostensibly due to a shortage. But it must be admitted that it was a well managed shortage since the customers were finally looked after.

In the last two years, for instance, the price of seed oats has increased by \$1.50 per hundredweight following a provincial grant of 50 cents per hundredweight for that class of grain.

Last winter, we all learned about the assistance given to cattle breeders by the federal government, jointly with the Quebec government. Such assistance was granted in designated areas following crop failures due to excessive rain in some cases and to drought, in others.

However, only cattle feed was subsidized and all hog breeders and poultry farmers had to pay the general price increase of 10 to 15 per cent on grain from the week when the subsidies were granted.

[Mr. Godin.]

What part will the board play in such situations? Section 8 speaks of reasonable prices.

Will the minister tell us what he means by "reasonable" and how high the price of grain will have to go before it is considered unreasonable? Will there be price control in this field? Will there be a new method of rationing or a policy of first come first served, since section 16 is a financial clause?

I should like to quote a passage, Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to do so due to my lack of experience. Clause 16 reads:

(1) All expenditures under this act, including amounts required for

(a) payments related to the cost of feed grain transportation or the cost of feed grain storage made under paragraph (a) of section 6, and

(b) payment of salaries and other expenses including expenses of administration . . . shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament therefor.

And subsection 4:

No payment out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund under subsection (2) shall exceed

(a) the amount by which ten million dollars exceeds the balance of the Canadian Livestock Feed Board Account, and

(b) any amount advanced under section 17.

What amount will the board be able to spend on this program? What scale will be used as a basis for deciding that a certain amount is adequate?

Will that amount be subject to credit restrictions, which have become current these days?

We can quote another statement, contained in the resolution introducing this bill, which reads as follows:

—and when authorized by the governor in council to enter into direct marketing operations in feed grain;

At this point, we ask ourselves: will some dealers be eliminated or will the new board serve as yet another middleman in already too long a list of intermediaries?

We note, as well, that the board will be authorized to make arrangements with a view to ensuring that livestock feeders have adequate feed supplies.

Will the board have men out on the road to find out what the requirements are?

Will the board provide for customers an information service like the one now provided by companies or responsible merchants?

Supposing that, for eastern Canada, the grain purchased before the close of the shipping season would represent only 25 per cent