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GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT

Car Order Book Suspended at Will of Commission.

Ottawa, March 14.—An amendment to the Canada Grain Act was introduced in the house today by Sir George Foster, minister of trade and commerce, and was rushed thru a first and second reading, as the minister explained that it was very necessary to have it put in force immediately. The amendment proposed by Sir George reads as follows:—

Section 207 of the Canada Grain Act, chapter 27 of the statutes of 1912, is amended by adding the following paragraph (c) thereof:

"(c) Whenever after due examination the board considers it necessary and advisable in order to relieve congestion and facilitate the despatch of grain."

Sir George Foster, in explaining the bill, said that a large amount of grain, particularly in the most congested districts, has not the benefit of warehousing or of elevator storage; it is simply lying in the fields. A great deal of grain is also in bins without floors. As soon as a thaw takes place the grain will be liable to speedy damage. The purpose of the bill was to give wider discretionary powers to the board of grain commissioners in the ordering of cars for the carriage of grain liable to damage. Sir George said that the amendment had been strongly urged by Mr. Motherwell, minister of agriculture, of Saskatchewan.

Exception was taken to the bill by Hon. Frank Oliver and W. E. Knowles, who thought it would not be wise to extend too far the discretionary powers of the grain commission. Mr. Oliver thought the bill might upset the principles of the car-order book and the right that the farmers have stood for during so many years, and which they have maintained so strongly, would be taken away without good or sufficient reason.

Mr. Knowles thought that the operation of the bill should be confined to places where grain has become or is in real danger of becoming damp, and that there should be no reference to "congestion" in it.

Foster Stands Firm

Sir George Foster argued that if there were no congestion there would be no necessity for this clause, because there would be plenty of cars and the grain could be carried away. The trouble, he said, is that there is congestion and that car orders are in advance of the orders of the man who has grain which is in danger of becoming damaged. Unless there is something to step in, the grain is almost certain to be seriously injured before relief is given.

Mr. Knowles proposed to solve the problem with an amendment providing that the bill should apply only to grain "damp or unhusked." This, he said, would give the board power to order cars to places where the grain is damp or unhusked and thereby liable to be come damaged.

Sir George Foster said that the matter had been given very careful consideration and he would prefer to stand by the board and give it the wider discretionary powers asked for.

Levi Thompson, of Qu'Appelle, asked the minister to remember that he was getting back to the old fight which western farmers have been carrying on for the last twenty years or more. He said that the farmers feel that a great deal would be at stake in connection with the passing of such an amendment as the one proposed. The amendment would give the grain commission the power to say that the regular order shall be deviated from when there is grain damaged, or when the elevators want more cars than they are entitled to according to the strict provisions of the act.

After further discussion the matter was compromised by Sir George Foster accepting an amendment giving the grain commissioners power to act in regard to grain "that is insufficiently husked and liable to become damp or injured." Mr. Knowles made an effort by moving an amendment to the amendment to confine the operation of the bill to his own original suggestion, but this was negatived.

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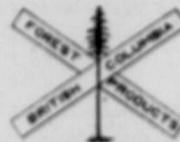
Under the Canada Grain Act

Of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange

INDEPENDENT

On request we will Wire or Phone Higher Prices than any competitor for grain of any kind, for shipment to, or in store either Government interior or any Terminal Elevator, and will make Highest Cash Advance to shippers who sell, or who wish to hold their grain.

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SILAGE

The Coming Stock Food

The College of Agriculture of the University of Saskatchewan, states in a bulletin entitled,

SILOS AND ROOT CELLARS

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"Though silage is best known on account of its value in milk production, it is also a splendid food for beef cattle.

"Experiments have demonstrated that corn, which is considered the best silage crop, because of the great tonnage produced, can be grown for silage purposes successfully throughout the prairies. Wheat, peas and oats also can be used."

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