

*Agricultural Products Board*

governor in council, the cabinet. If they are going to have full authority under the measure then of course we will only get what they want to give us. If we cannot have a producer member on the board I do not think the legislation will be of much benefit to us. I hope when the minister replies he will give us some assurance that we will be taken care of.

Something was said about the reason why pork dropped approximately 25 per cent in price earlier this fall. I was told by a very good authority that the reason that pork dropped was not because of the quantity on hand but because packing house lockers were empty. The price went down so they could fill up the lockers with cheaper pork. I cannot figure out any other reason, and I do not think those are very sound business methods. The producer is in the position where he must market his hogs. He cannot hold them. One fellow came to me and said: "I will not deliver my hogs; I will not market them." I said, "What are you going to do?" He said, "I will turn them out to grass." That is all very well, but you have got to deliver them at a certain weight and you cannot hold them. You are caught both going and coming. The hogs must be delivered at a certain weight if you want to get a price for them. I do not think that is a good situation. Hogs should not take a slump of 7 or 8 cents a pound just at a time when perhaps a quarter of the production is ready for market. I think it is a disgraceful way of marketing anything. If the minister will tell me that producers are going to be represented on the board, then I have no fault to find with the bill; but if they are not, then I do not think it is any use at all. If the minister and the cabinet are going to exercise the whole authority then I am not satisfied with the measure.

**Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to support the remarks of the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Cardiff) and the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Bryce) that the producers should have membership on the board. I hope the minister will give us that assurance when he speaks. Generally speaking I think the setting up of this board will be an excellent thing for the farmers. There is no doubt that considerable power is being placed in the hands of the board. I had a call from a friend of mine in the seed trade who is concerned as to what this measure may involve. For example, if there is a shortage of seed in Canada the board may decide to bring in large quantities of seed from South American and Mediterranean countries. Such seed would be No. 1 grade and could be blended with

Canadian No. 1 seed and sold as top grade. So far as freedom from weed seeds is concerned, this would be perfectly all right, but there is the important question of the germination of seed coming from these countries. We have to remember that the question of the rigours of our climate means a great deal in the percentage of germination of foreign seed. When the question of the appointment of the personnel of the board is being considered, I hope serious consideration will be given to the personnel. They should be men well qualified to study every angle of the great agricultural problems facing us. I want to add that one word, that serious consideration should be given to the personnel of the board.

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** If the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I am sorry it will not be possible for me, without breaking the point of order I raised earlier—

**An hon. Member:** That does not make any difference.

**Mr. Gardiner:**—to answer all the questions or suggestions that have been made as to what I should say in reply. I think what is most important for me to say is that I believe the members of the opposition have been attributing much more importance to this particular board than was intended by the government or myself. As I understand it, the board really has no authority to settle any of the questions that have been discussed here. They only have one authority, and that is to buy and sell farm products when they are instructed by the government to do so. That is the only authority they have; they have no other authority. In order to make it clear that they can perform that service for the agricultural prices support board, the bill names the agricultural prices support board as one of the authorities for which they may act—with government instruction, of course.

The agricultural prices support board, as has been indicated, has the authority, and has settled upon a form of action which results in agricultural price floors. They are not satisfactory to everyone. But nevertheless, that legislation gives that authority. The setting up of this board does not take any of that authority away from the agricultural prices support board. It does not give to this board any authority to do that kind of thing.

The second last speaker, I think it was—the hon. member for Middlesex East (Mr. White)—suggested that he is not in favour of bulk buying. There is not much use of