

*Prairie Farm Assistance Act*

**Mr. Graydon:** Is the minister suggesting that he is asking us to pass a resolution upon which a bill is to be based, and that he has not seen the bill?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I have to admit that I did not express myself properly. I did make a serious study of that bill; I have it in my hands, but I do not think it is proper for the bill to be given to the house before the resolution carries.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I do not believe this resolution will take very long. I think all the representatives from the prairie provinces in this house, regardless of party, are in favour of it. It removes the discrimination which exists at the present time, and the extension outlined in the resolution will be welcome as far as western farmers are concerned.

When the bill is before us there will be some details that hon. members may want to discuss. Since the Minister of Public Works is the only one who has studied the bill I think we may as well say that we welcome it and shall look forward to joining him in a further study of it.

**Mr. Hansell:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the minister if these are the only changes in the Prairie Farm Assistance Act that we can expect this session. This act has been under review for a considerable time by agriculture committees, and certain recommendations have been made from time to time. It would appear from the order paper that these are the only changes that will be made.

Some of us have been making certain recommendations for a long time, and we rather expected that further changes would be made this session. I refer particularly to the provision that so many sections are required before one can qualify for P.F.A.A. assistance. At the present time it is a little unfair because a farmer living outside a certain block of sections may have a poor crop and not be qualified to receive assistance, while another farmer living within the prescribed block and having a larger yield may get assistance. There would seem to be unfairness there. Some of us have urged that it should be calculated on the basis of individual farms. That is one change we would have liked to see made.

Although a farmer is compelled to pay into the prairie farm assistance fund at the rate of 1 per cent, if he also operates a little

business it affects his eligibility for payment. Even though his yield is below the average and he is in a block of sections where assistance is paid, he will not receive anything.

There are other changes which I think should be made in respect to farmers who are hailed out. It has been suggested that this act should cover hail damage. I see nothing of that on the order paper, and I am asking the minister if these are the only changes that are to be made this year?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I am glad the hon. gentleman has made his representations, and I shall draw them to the attention of my colleagues, especially the Minister of Agriculture. Even if it were the intention of the government to make further changes, even as the Acting Minister of Agriculture I would not dare announce them beforehand. They would be matters of policy. When the minister is dealing with the bill these questions can be answered. I must admit that even after the study I have made my knowledge of the matter is quite limited.

**Mr. Low:** I think when we are dealing with the motion for second reading of the bill there will be unrestricted debate and the points raised by my hon. friend can be considered.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

**Mr. Fournier, Hull (for Mr. Gardiner)** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 333, to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** May I thank every hon. member in the house for his co-operation in the proceedings today. I think we have made wonderful progress. Although we were to sit until six o'clock and then from eight to ten o'clock, I shall now move the adjournment of the house until Tuesday next at 2.30 p.m.

On Tuesday we will resume the debate on the motion of the Minister of Finance to go into committee of supply and the amendment thereto of the hon. member for Lake Centre. I hope I can call the four departments that I announced when the motion was first made, defence production, privy council, public works and resources and development. If we get into committee, as I hope we will,