

glands, these glands can be removed and the rest of the carcass is fit for human consumption.

Section 2 of this bill, honourable members, would simply make the bill retroactive to the 1st of May, 1953. That is, as I understand it, so that larger compensation can be authorized for hogs that went down with cholera in Ontario last spring. I think there were some 3,075 hogs, for which about \$75,000 has already been paid in compensation, but it is felt that if some fairer and more generous compensation were allowed to the owners of diseased livestock, this would be an encouragement to cleaning up as quickly as possible any infectious or contagious disease.

Hon. Mr. Euler: How can you tell what those animals were worth at that time?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: If this bill should receive second reading, honourable senators, I would move that it be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, where we would have in attendance the Veterinary Director General, who could answer any detailed questions that members might wish to ask.

Hon. Mr. Baird: Does this bill include provision for poultry?

Hon. Mr. Lambert: No.

Hon. Mr. Baird: Just livestock?

Hon. Mr. Lambert: And hogs and sheep.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I may mention to the honourable member from St. John's (Hon. Mr. Baird) that poultry is inspected and, where necessary, quarantined, and in some cases slaughtered. Compensation is paid.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: There is only one comment I wish to make on the bill, and I shall follow it up, if I may, with a question to the honourable senator who has explained it.

The comment has to do with the retroactive feature. This additional compensation provision is to be retroactive to May 1 last year. Retroactivity is a principle which should be very cautiously and carefully applied. In the past, at any rate until recent years, parliament was steadily against adoption of the retroactive principle, and there is much to be said in favour of that attitude. If the door is opened in a matter of this kind to the application of retroactive provisions, we shall find that it will be pressed steadily more and more open, and ultimately we may find ourselves in a good deal of trouble. In any case the point, I think, is worth considering.

The question I wish to ask my honourable friend is, whether I am correct in assuming

that compensation will be paid only when the slaughter of the diseased animals is directed by officials of the department.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is correct. Compensation will be paid only when the animals have been slaughtered under orders of the departmental veterinary services.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. McDonald, the bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

PRIVATE BILL

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTISTS OF CANADA— SECOND READING

Hon. J. Wesley Stambaugh moved the second reading of Bill G-11, an Act to incorporate North American Baptists of Canada.

He said: Honourable senators, one of the main objectives of this bill to incorporate the North American Baptists of Canada is to enable them to hold title to property within Canada and in any of the provinces. The bill follows the usual form in respect of religious organizations.

My information is that, at the present time, there is an association of Baptist churches, with charges in both Canada and the United States, known as the North American Baptists. The North American Baptists General Conference meets every third year, with each church having the right to appoint delegates to represent them at the conference. Between meetings of the General Conference, their affairs are managed by a Board of Directors, known as the General Council, which meets annually and has authority to deal with all matters concerning the church, with the exception of a change in the constitution.

The first General Conference was held in 1843 at which member churches were organized, but the first conference in Canada, for which minutes are available, was held in Wilmot, Nova Scotia, in 1865. I understand those charges in the Maritimes have been absorbed by other Baptist societies, for at the present time there are no churches, either in the maritime provinces or Quebec, affiliated with the North American Baptists.

The present headquarters is located in Forest Park, Illinois, but it is proposed under this bill to incorporate the Canadian churches of this body as a separate Canadian society, with headquarters at Ottawa. Honourable senators will note that a provisional Board of Directors is named in the bill.