NORTH FRASER HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved the second reading of Bill 139, an Act to amend the North Fraser Harbour Commissioners Act, 1913.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved the third reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I understand from certain British Columbia members that the purpose of this Bill is to rectify some error in defining the boundaries of the harbour.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: The harbour limits are very specifically set out in the enacting section of the Bill—a rather unusual procedure.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: It looks as though they were taking in something that had not belonged to the harbour before. The Bill says:

> To include all the foreshore and water lots, wharves, piers, and docks, in or along the waters forming as aforesaid the said Harbour, the title to which is, at this date, vested in His Majesty.

Is His Majesty, through us, giving some of our property to this harbour?

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: That is quite possible. It is only a usufruct after all.

Hon. Mr. KING: For some time there has been a desire on the part of the North Fraser Harbour Commissioners to have the boundaries of the harbour rearranged. I think this Bill is a compliance with their request. Speaking for British Columbia, I know of no objection to what is being done.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

WHEAT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved the second reading of Bill 140, an Act respecting wheat.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would the honourable gentleman explain?

Hon. A. B. GILLIS: Before the motion is carried, I should like to say a word or two in regard to this Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to give the farmers of the West five cents on every bushel of wheat sold for export. In the section of the country from which I come, extending south from Saskatoon to the boundary, and spreading east and west for some distance, this will not be applicable, because we have no wheat. I suggested to some members in another place that it would have been better to grant a small amount per acre to those who had cultivated the land and were unable to get any return. That proposal, which was looked upon with some favour at first, would of course have been better for the districts that are desolated.

I may say that in the district to which I have referred there have been light crops, because of dry weather and so on, but this is the first complete crop failure in forty-nine years. In the last two years at least the crop that was harvested gave the farmers comparatively small returns. Indeed, in most cases the receipts were not sufficient to pay the cost of production. Because of that fact a great many people in the West are hard pressed and will have considerable difficulty in maintaining themselves this winter. It is fortunate that the Government of the day is making provisions so that no one need starve. The average farmer finds it hard to accept anything in the way of charity, and I think it might be well for the Government to consider the advisability of making loans to those who have sufficient property to give the necessary security. Much good could be done in this way if the rate of interest were low. But many farmers have no property that would be suitable as security. While the payment of five cents a bushel will help those who have wheat, it of course will not be of any benefit to a great many people in the area to which I have referred, who will not have any crop this year. However, the Government has determined that no one shall be in want, and I feel satisfied that a scheme will be devised to give assistance to all who need it.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable senators, loans such as were suggested by my honourable friend would be a great boon, because many farmers would undoubtedly receive from them more than they will from the payment of five cents a bushel on wheat. I know very intimately the district referred to by the honourable gentleman, but before dealing with the conditions there I will speak briefly on the question of loans. Last year the loan agents received a large number of applications. I happen to know two who had a fairly large business—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Representatives of the Provincial Government?