

Inspection of Seeds

of the kind, I think, on this continent. It stood the test of time until 1911, when it was again amended and brought up to date. Since then it has continued in force up to the present day without any additional amendment. During the interval a number of similar acts have been passed in the various states of the American republic, and also on the continent of Europe, where they have not only overtaken but, in many important respects, actually surpassed us. It is now time that we should make further progress and not only consolidate but virtually build a new act that will do credit to us and compare favourably with any other legislation of the same nature to be found elsewhere.

In the old act the grading of clover and grass seeds was made compulsory. In the

present bill not only is the grading
9 p.m. of these seeds made compulsory, but

likewise the grading of cereals for seed purposes. The grades are described by law just as our contract grades of wheat are described by law. The cereals, however, are not described by law, but are set by an advisory board in the same manner as the commercial grades of wheat are set in the West by the Western Standards Board. There are a number of other changes in the law, one of which I might mention. I mentioned it on the resolution, and it is a very good example of what we refer to as direct legislation. The conference to which I have referred, during their deliberations recommended to the government that we should insert a section making provision to protect the public from being exploited by some new or fancy variety of cereal, that might have no economic value at all, probably some old, worn-out variety that was rechristened, being put on the market, and an unsuspecting public exploited by such methods. I can recall many occasions in my farming experience when some glib-tongued gentleman would come around and expatiate on the advantages of, say, Alaskan wheat that was to enable one to grow 100 bushels of good milling wheat to the acre. That has been done, not once, but many times. In this bill, there is a clause stipulating that before any new variety of cereal or seed shall be put on the market, it shall be tried out either in some experimental plots privately, or under the auspices of some experimental farm and its merits tested out before the owner thereof will be permitted to sell it. While there are advantages in that in the protection of the public, it has disadvantages also. It might have a deterrent and hampering effect on the real plant promoter or breeder. If a gentleman, let us say, like Mr. Seager Wheeler, who is recognized throughout this continent

[Mr. Motherwell.]

as a plant breeder, thought that his discoveries had to go through two years' experimentation in some other hands than his own, that might have a retarding effect on his investigational work. There are the two sides. I am not married to either of them; but I will invite discussion by the agricultural committee of them, because there is a real grievance there. I do not, however, desire that the remedy shall be worse than the disease, and that is the danger of this amendment.

Hon. S. F. TOLMIE (Victoria City): Mr. Speaker, it has been called to my attention by the Horticultural Association that it is very desirable that provision should be made for the registration of plants. We all know the great value of registering live stock to enable people, who are desirous of improving their herds and their methods of farming, to purchase such a line of breeders as will be of assistance to them in that regard. In the same way, plant breeding has been advancing of late years to a great extent, and many of our florists and horticulturists have made great reputations by the production of specimens of particular excellence. They desire now to be able to register such plants so as to be sure that those purchasing the plants will be able to obtain the proper strain and also to ensure that they themselves will derive the benefit which is naturally coming to them as a result of their efforts along that line. They strongly protest against anything in this bill which will prevent that. They point out quite clearly how important this registration is, and I sincerely hope that the minister, before the bill reaches its final reading, will give this matter careful attention, with a view, perhaps, of adopting their suggestion.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. MANION:

What Civil Service Commissioners signed their names to the recommendation which was followed by Order in Council of June 29, 1922, removing large numbers of employees from the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission?

Hon. Mr. COPP: The recommendation which was followed by Order in Council of June 29, 1922, was signed by Mr. Clarence Jameson and Mr. LaRochelle, of the Civil Service Commission.