

of the opportunities offered by that legislation, and during the war still greater advantage was taken. After the war, in 1919, the government of the day, and, I think, quite correctly, amended the act and made it apply to municipal cold storages only. Before that it applied to all and sundry, but the activity under it began to absorb a good deal of money to pay the subsidies earned. In the meantime the local authorities went ahead with the construction of a cold storage plant at Montreal, and we now have one of the best plants at that harbour to be found on this continent. But that was four years ago, and in the interval no subsidies have been earned under the amendment providing for the encouragement of municipal cold storage plants. It would appear as if municipalities are not anxious to construct cold storage plants even with this encouragement. Only one other municipality has attempted to comply with the act, but up to date it has not got sufficiently far on to earn the first instalment of the subsidy, neither do I know if it ever will be able to reach that point.

Mr. HANSON: What plant is that?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: At Sydney, Cape Breton. In view of that, Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come when we should amend this act so that it will function. The proposal is to make these subsidies apply to co-operative cold storage plants. This is an age of co-operation, as to the advantages of which, however, there is some difference of opinion. A certain number of municipal cold storage plants had been constructed before the act was amended in 1919. Now, it is proposed to revert, though not entirely, to the old act of 1907, which applied to all kinds of cold storage plants, including those constructed by private enterprise. The proposed amendment will make the act applicable to co-operative cold storage plants, preferably to those of a non-profit-making character that pay out a portion at least of their profits to their patrons in proportion to the business they have brought to their respective plants.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Is it intended to apply to municipal cold storage plants?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That would be a matter for the committee to consider. Personally I do not think it should; the application to municipal cold storage plants has been given a fair trial, and nobody seems to want it. These municipal plants have not, perhaps, been so successful as to justify our subsidizing them, but I suppose there would not be much objection to retaining that option

in the bill. I do not feel strongly on the question, though. The point is that the Cold Storage Act should be permitted to function some way, preferably in the direction of co-operative activity.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): On what basis is it proposed to distribute these subsidies?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They will be distributed on the basis of the old act—in four annual instalments, at the rate of 30 per cent of the cost of construction.

Mr. SALES: Do I understand the minister to say that there was no change in the act until 1919?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: There was an unimportant change in 1909.

Mr. SALES: Was there no suspension of the act until 1919?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The act was made to apply to municipal cold storages only. It was not a suspension, but it had that effect.

Mr. SALES: The minister is, of course, aware of the conditions in Saskatchewan. I understand that the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creamery undertook work at Saskatoon and at Melville, at considerable expense. They did not get the assistance they expected to get under the act, and they consequently ran into difficulties. Has the minister any information on that subject?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think my hon. friend is not correctly informed. The erection of that cold storage plant was started by a private institution; it was subsequently purchased by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creamery as a going concern, and they went on with the construction. The government of that day decided that the subsidy should follow the new ownership, and the company received \$32,400 on that account. The cubic measurement of the building was 98,832 feet, and the total cost of construction was \$108,000.

Mr. SALES: Can the minister give me the figures for Melville as well?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It was after the suspension, as my hon. friend calls it, that the Melville cold storage plant was constructed.

Mr. ANDERSON: This amendment will not interfere with any private persons going into the abattoir or cold storage business as a joint stock company?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No.