

the wheat is sold by sample it is impossible for the farmer, or for the man who buys from the farmer, and wishes to export it, to get it stored in any elevator. His wheat, if stored, can only be taken in by the car load and cannot be dumped into the large bins in which they store graded wheat, and the consequence is that he has practically to send on a car load of wheat as soon as purchased to whatever point it is destined for, having first sent the sample ahead, and in that way the farmer is very much at the mercy of the purchaser; whereas if these commercial grades were established, which are understood by the trade just as well as No. 1 or No. 2 hard, this would not be the case and the seller would obtain a fair price. The only change that is made now is to recognize the certificates which are already given by the inspectors appointed by the Government. The western boards of trade are very much interested in this, they are not interested in seeing the farmer cheated; they are interested in getting a fair price for the wheat purchased in that country, but they think, and apparently with unanimity, that the interest of the country would be better served by having this legislation passed. I have no doubt at all that those hon. gentlemen who have taken different views are perfectly honest in their opposition to the measure, and believe that it will injure the country; or will cause confusion in the grading of wheat. But I am of opinion that the members of boards of trade there, who have considered this matter very carefully for several years past, are quite as competent, and perhaps even a little more competent, to judge of this measure than either the gentlemen who have spoken or myself, or perhaps any other member of the House. I would simply submit that this legislation has not been proposed without being asked for, and asked for by those most deeply interested in the matter.

Mr. TROW. These grades in question are only known to the buyers. A farmer in Manitoba or the North-West knows nothing about them, and is only guided by the decision of the buyer. The buyer has, therefore, an opportunity to impose on the seller, because the farmer is not prepared to say as to how his grain should be rated, whether as No. 1, 2, or 3, and, of course, the buyer can impose on him by saying that his wheat is not No. 1 as he supposed, but No. 2, and the farmer will thus only receive the price of No. 2. Under other circumstances the farmer would be able to compare his wheat with that of his neighbour and draw a comparison of the value of his products.

Mr. McMULLEN. I regret that the Minister of Inland Revenue has not submitted this Bill to the different boards of trade of the Dominion, especially as this legislation is of a peculiar character, affecting only Manitoba and the North-West. I do not challenge the statements of the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Macdonald). For my part, I would be very reluctant to stand in the way of any legislation of interest to the farmers of the North-West as well as other sections of the country; but, at the same time, we should, in passing legislation of this kind, see that we are not jeopardizing any interests of the Dominion. I hold that, under this Bill, Manitoba No. 1 may be graded either as commercial No. 1 or as standard No. 1. How is a man who buys flour to know, when he sees it stated to be Manitoba No. 1, whether it

is No. 1 hard or No. 1 commercial? He may thus purchase flour of second class quality instead of No. 1 hard. This legislation will have a very serious effect on the manner in which flour is bought and sold. No. 1 Manitoba hard brings the highest price of any flour in Ontario. Suppose that a miller in the North-West finds, that by the passage of this Act, he can place on the Ontario market a large quantity of flour ground from No. 1 commercial wheat, how is the buyer going to know whether the wheat is of that quality or of No. 1 hard? Such legislation gives an improper advantage to the millers.

Mr. LANDERKIN. If this Bill is going to improve the condition of farmers, I should like to ask the Minister if they have petitioned in its favour? Farmers understand their business, and if the Bill is in favour of their interests, petitions will have been sent in its favour. Boards of trade do not usually look after the interests of the farmers as much as people imagine. A few years ago on matters affecting the farmers of the North-West they petitioned very numerously. If they have petitioned in this case, the petition will be in charge of the Minister, and we shall be glad if he will let us know the facts.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I do not think it necessary that the statements of every member should be backed up by petitions. No one asked the hon. gentleman during his speeches this session whether he had petitions behind him backing up the statements he made. The hon. gentleman has already heard that the people of the North-West desire this legislation, and that the boards of trade in all the towns and cities of the North-West desire it. He might also take it for granted that the statements made by members from that part of the country fairly represent the views of the farmers.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Why does the Minister bring forward the fact that the board of trade wished the legislation, when he finds fault with me for asking if petitions have been received from farmers? Why did he complain of my question?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I did not complain.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Yes, you certainly have been complaining.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. gentleman must address the Chair.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I had almost lost sight of the Chair, because I was looking at a Minister who is very much bigger than the Chairman.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Does the Minister propose to adopt any provision to prevent flour manufactured from No. 1 or 2 commercial grade being confounded with No. 1 and 2 regular standard, and what are the regulations he proposes, because this Bill is a declaration to all the world that Manitoba and the North-West produce frozen wheat?

Mr. COSTIGAN. If there were any danger of that happening which the hon. gentleman suggests, I would be prepared to adopt safeguards. I do not, however, think there is any such danger. If flour is produced from frozen or unripe wheat the inspection must be faulty if it should not be classified according to the grade to which it belongs. No classification is given to the wheat ground, but to the flour produced, and if the flour is No. 1 it is