

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Mr. Charlton: I should like to ask a question along the same line. If cracked grain is supposed to include wild oats, etc., what is the *et cetera* going to be. Although it does not come under the minister's department, I want to point out something else. At the time of the committee sittings Mr. Milner read a letter from an official of the Department of Agriculture in which wild buckwheat was called grain. I may be wrong, but I was always under the impression it was a very bad weed seed and should never be referred to as grain.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): This matter was debated in the agriculture committee. I think the records of the committee will indicate the nature of the discussion and the replies given by the officials. I never thought screenings were grain either, but apparently my hon. friend buys them as grain.

Mr. Charlton: No, he does not.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): However, I will be glad to draw his question to the attention of the board and if there is any information I can obtain I will convey it to him.

Mr. Nicholson: Yesterday in reply to a question of the hon. member for Calgary North regarding grain quotas the minister said that he hoped all the wheat in the farmers' hands can be delivered before the next crop is moved. As I read those words they are not very helpful in case the next crop is not moved until a year from now. In view of the fact that those members who are wheat farmers are not likely to be home until the grain is harvested at the rate we are going, can the minister give some indication of what the plans are for the initial quota for the new crop which will be moving shortly? How many bushels can each farmer expect to deliver?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): An announcement will be made in the next few days. I have had correspondence with the board about the proposed quotas for next year but I would not like to make an announcement now. I am not too sure that a final decision has been reached. However, the announcement will be out shortly. Of course, while I said that if the grain could not be delivered before the end of the month I expected there would be space for it before the next crop moves, it must be understood that any grain delivered on or after August 1 will be delivered against the new quotas.

Mr. Nicholson: Can the minister indicate whether all points that now have an eight-bushel quota are likely to have enough box

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

cars available to enable the farmers to deliver up to eight bushels before the end of the present crop year?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Well, I am hopeful that will be the case. My hon. friend will understand that the wheat board puts out requisitions for wheat and the actual allocation of box cars is made by the grain companies themselves. It seems to me that it should be possible to see that the eight-bushel quota will be delivered at points that have the eight-bushel quota before the end of the crop year.

Mr. Castleden: With regard to deliveries of this final quota, the grain growers of the west will be very pleased to hear the minister's statement that they will be permitted to deliver all the grain they wish to by the end of the year, or at least by the time the 1955 crop is ready to move. I asked the minister a question the other day in the house, which he took as notice. What arrangements are being made to assure that farmers who are delivering that grain for the balance of this 1954 crop year will be permitted to deliver the grain to the elevator of their own choice? Reports I have from some areas is to the effect that box cars are still being allocated rather on the basis of the same number to each elevator at the various points. I am sure that the steps the minister has taken to work this out with the wheat board have met with the approval of everyone, and we hope the board will be able to handle it satisfactorily. We hope the congestion will be eliminated by this delivery.

Will it be possible from then on to allow the farmers to deliver grain to the elevator of their own choice?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I assure my hon. friend that no compulsion will be used on any farmer to deliver grain to any particular elevator. We hope he will be able to deliver to the elevator of his choice.

Mr. Castleden: It is not a matter of compulsion, it is a matter of space being available in the line companies so that is where he has to go to deliver his grain. I know steps are being taken to improve the situation. I hope that the farmers who are delivering grain for the balance of this year until September will be permitted to deliver that grain to the elevator of their choice. It seems to me that once the congested situation is relieved, the wheat board should be able to take deliveries and the right of the farmer to deliver his grain to the elevator of his choice should be established at this time.

Item agreed to.