

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
MARCH 3, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 o'clock to consider the reference to the committee: "That all questions affecting the beet sugar industry in Canada be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture with instructions to inquire into the action which may be taken by the government by way of customs duties, subsidies, bonuses or otherwise either in or without cooperation with the provincial governments for promoting the prosperity of the said industry and developing the production of Canadian grown sugar, and report to this house."

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am glad to see that there is still some interest being taken in agriculture. This is clearly shown by the number of members who are here this morning. This meeting is called for the purpose of considering the reference made to this committee by the house. I will read that reference to you:—

That all questions affecting the beet sugar industry in Canada be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture with instructions to inquire into both the action which may be taken by the government by way of customs duties, subsidies, bonuses or otherwise either in or without cooperation with the provincial governments for promoting the prosperity in the said industry and developing the production of Canadian grown sugar and report to this house.

Now, it seems to me the first thing the committee should consider is a motion to have the proceedings and evidence of this committee printed.

Motion carried.

The next thing we should consider, gentlemen, is the question of a quorum. I am informed by the secretary that for the next two or three weeks there will be a large number of committees meeting. Our quorum is twenty, and it might be difficult for us to have a quorum always present. I would suggest to the committee, if it meets with your approval, to have the quorum reduced.

Mr. BROWN: I think twelve was the number we had before.

Motion to reduce the quorum to 12 agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: I took it upon myself to have a gentleman from the Bureau of Statistics here to give evidence on statistics in the beet sugar industry of Canada. Perhaps before we proceed with the evidence, if you are agreeable to hear it, it will be well to discuss what witnesses should be called in this investigation. Last year we appointed a sub-committee to make recommendations to the main committee as to what witnesses should be called. I am afraid that if we get into a general discussion in the main committee too many witnesses will be asked for and we will not get very far.

Mr. CAYLEY: Has this committee the same members on it that were on it last year?

The CHAIRMAN: Practically the same. There are quite a number of members who are vitally interested in the beet sugar industry. If you intend to appoint a sub-committee I would make the suggestion that it consist of the