

*Agricultural Products Board*

things. What would happen if the government decided that the price of any one of these articles was too high in Canada and therefore they would import some to be sold for less? They would certainly be in difficulty. But that is what this government is doing under this bill.

What is needed is a more definite formula for agriculture so that when products are produced producers will know that they will receive a price bearing at least some relationship to the goods and services they must buy in order to carry on their work. Otherwise this country is going to face a continually declining production of agricultural products. Farmers do not stage sit-down strikes such as industry and labour have done, but over a long period the decision to reduce agricultural production can have a far more disastrous and far-reaching effect than the more spectacular strikes we read about in our newspapers and see taking place in our industrial cities. Section 4 of the bill reads in part:

(c) buy, sell, or import agricultural products;

(d) by order require any person to give, at the time specified in the order, such information respecting agricultural products as may be necessary for the proper administration of this act.

While we will be forced to support the bill, I am afraid of possible implications.

**Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, there are some remarks I should like to make and in doing so I shall try to keep clear of a discussion of prices and thus abide by your ruling. I agree with this bill as I think something like this has been needed for some time. My good friend the hon. member for Middlesex East (Mr. White) said that bulk buying and socialism have put Great Britain in the position she is in today. I give my hon. friend credit for knowing the situation better than that. Even today Mr. Churchill has not cancelled bulk buying. They are still carrying it on, and during the war it was the best method they could find. If they would do a bit more of it I think it would be good for us. The hon. member said: What did it get us before? He knows that wheat sold at 35 cents a bushel at one time, and we do not want to go back to that again. However, I want to confine my remarks to the minister. I hope he will give us some assurance that when this board of from three to seven members is set up there will be a representative of the producers on it. He knows what I mean. I do not need to explain it to the minister and take up time. He knows what I mean by representation for the producers.

[Mr. White (Middlesex East).]

I do not want somebody who was born on a farm and has forgotten what it looks like. I want somebody who is a bona fide farmer so that he may represent the producers on the board in company with the representatives of other classes. I think we should have been discussing prices, but I will let that matter go. All I want to say is that I think prices should be guaranteed. They should be on the basis of a formula so that we will know where we are. What I am trying to say is that in times past prices have been set but at the packers' level. I can explain that by referring to the setting of the price for lambs. It was set at a quarter of a cent less than the floor price. That was no favour whatever to the farmers. He sold his lambs to the drover or stockyard, they were purchased, and immediately they came into the hands of the packer the ceiling applied to them. I should like to see the farmers get far more protection than that.

From visiting other countries, which no doubt the minister has also visited, I know that forward prices have done wonderful things in giving the farmers security. I think it is quite possible for the government or the minister's department to enter into such a scheme, guarantee prices for two or three years, and give stability to everybody right along the line. Hon. members will realize the tremendous benefit it would be to hog producers, poultry keepers and dairymen if they knew what they were going to get, and that at no time would they have to take less but might get more. I cannot go further without getting into the question of prices and being ruled out of order, although I had prepared my notes to discuss prices. I hope the minister will tell us whether he does not think the time is ripe for us to have forward prices in Canada in order to give security to the farmer, the poultry producer, the dairyman and everybody else engaged in producing the necessities of life for Canada.

**Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron North):** Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of saying anything on this bill, but I should like to say that I have read the bill carefully and will vote for anything that will be of benefit to agriculture in this country. The farmers have never got too much. However, looking at the bill I cannot see that it will be of very much benefit to them because of the fact that there is no assurance that producers will be accorded representation on the board. When the minister replies perhaps he will tell us who are going to be on the board. Looking at the bill it is evident that all the authority rests with the minister and the