

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

This would be followed by that which now appears in the paragraphs and subparagraphs of clause 19. Perhaps the minister would be prepared to move that amendment, if it is acceptable.

Mr. Sauv : I understand another hon. member is drafting an amendment to this clause. I should like to have that before commenting, and perhaps it could be submitted in writing.

Mr. Lambert: I shall be glad to send the minister a copy of the amendment I intend to propose. I would move:

That the period after the word "act" in line 17 of clause 19 be deleted and there be added the following proviso:

"Provided that any such regulation or regulations shall be tabled in parliament within ten days of the approval thereof by the governor in council, providing that parliament shall then be in session, otherwise within the first five days after the commencement of the next ensuing session of parliament".

Mr. Sauv : In principle that is exactly what the Regulations Act, 1950, chapter 235 says. It states:

Every regulation shall be laid before parliament within 15 days after it is published in the Canada Gazette or, if parliament is not then in session, within 15 days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.

That requirement is already included in the Regulations Act and I do not see that we would be improving the situation by including this requirement in the bill.

Mr. Lambert: The difficulty I find in this regard is in keeping up with the items that are tabled. There is no indication in *Votes and Proceedings* as to when these things were tabled. Since we are dealing with an agricultural subject at this time, let me suggest that in order to find these regulations one must search for a tiny needle in a haystack. I have always felt that a central record of these regulations should be kept at the Library of Parliament, in chronological order. Otherwise one has to go through *Votes and Proceedings* for a whole year to find when ministers of the crown tabled regulations, reports or returns as required by law.

Earlier this year one of the minister's colleagues was prepared to accept an amendment in order to improve an important piece of legislation, requiring these regulations to be formally tabled and drawn to our attention. I am aware that there exist these anterior regulations of a general nature. If the

[Mr. Olson.]

minister feels my amendment is redundant I do not intend to press it or maintain a standing fight. This is something I wanted to bring to the attention of the house.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I may say a word about the historical background of the Regulations Act to which the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development has referred. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre will recall very well that this is really a monument to the present Leader of the Official Opposition. I am surprised that the hon. member for Edmonton West is not aware of that fact.

Years ago the Leader of the Opposition lectured this house frequently about what he called government by order in council, and he persuaded Mr. St. Laurent, who was then the prime minister, that these orders in council having the force of law should be made public regularly. I think that right hon. gentleman is entitled to some credit for the Regulations Act. I also think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who was a vigilant member of the house in those days, is entitled to some credit.

Mr. Knowles: Please remember that I am still here.

Mr. Pickersgill: You are here again, but there was an interval.

Mr. Knowles: All I can say is such an interval would be good for every member.

Mr. Pickersgill: In any event, let me proceed with my historical reminiscence. The Regulations Act required the publication of every regulation that had the force of law. It also required that these regulations be consolidated regularly and published in consecutive fashion. To find one you do not have to look for a needle in a haystack. Indeed, this is not a haystack at all; there is a very well organized compilation of statutory orders and regulations which are available for anyone to read. We know not merely what the law is, directly, as legislated, but what the law is by virtue of the power of regulation given by parliament.

It does not seem to me that by the adoption of the hon. member's amendment we would be changing the law at all. This statute is already in effect, and therefore the proposed amendment is redundant and unnecessary because of the Regulations Act.