

*Agricultural Products Board***AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BOARD**

TO PRESCRIBE THE CONSTITUTION AND POWERS OF THE BOARD, AND TO PROVIDE FOR NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture)** moved the second reading of Bill No. 18, to provide for the establishment of an agricultural products board.

**Mr. Charlton:** Is the minister going to make a statement?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Mr. Speaker, the bill was thoroughly discussed in the resolution stage, and I do not know that there is anything I can add at this moment by way of discussing the principle of the bill. I feel I covered that very fully when we were in the resolution stage. I believe we could spend our time to better advantage at this stage in committee, where information could be asked for by members who so desired, and I am in the position to give information. I doubt very much if I could use the time to best advantage by repeating what I said before. I should like to move second reading at the moment and if there is any general discussion to listen to it and then go into committee as soon as we may so the information which members desire can be obtained.

**Mr. J. A. Charlton (Brant-Wentworth):** It is not my intention to take up much of the time of the house now, but I want to make a short statement about this bill. I realize to some extent the necessity for legislation of this type, since it will be more or less a stopgap due to the lack of producer boards in the country at this time. I should like to have the minister's assurance—and I think he can give it to us—that this board will not be used to discourage the setting up of more producer boards, or to work in competition with or to the detriment of any producer board now in existence. That is all I want to say at the present time, but I should like the minister to give us that assurance, namely that it is not going to work to the disadvantage of any producer board now in operation and that it will not work in opposition to or in competition with a producer board that may be organized in the future.

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, the bill before us empowers the government to establish an agricultural products board. While the bill empowers the governor in council to direct that board to do a number of things, such as purchasing food products in Canada for shipment to overseas countries and the buying and selling of agricultural products within Canada, it seemed to me that the main or the first purpose of the board would be to handle the imports of butter into Canada in the coming months.

loan, the bank would not be in a position to take the other third in order to liquidate the loan.

**Mr. Howe:** No.

Section agreed to.

Sections 10 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When shall the bill be read a third time?

**Mr. Howe:** Now.

**Mr. Howe** moved the third reading of the bill.

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge):** Before the bill is read a third time, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a word or two for my own section. No doubt conditions vary considerably throughout the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. In a large part of my constituency this measure is going to be of very little value. As I indicated in my speech of December 10, the losses there are almost as great as would be occasioned by a hail storm. It is doubtful that much of the grain in the western part of my riding will be capable of being harvested. Conditions are a little better in the southern and eastern portions, because there they did get some grain. I would imagine that all the way up the eastern foothills of the Rocky mountains there will be found conditions somewhat resembling those which obtain in my own riding. I believe the government should take more definite measures than those appearing in this bill.

Some steps ought to be taken to reward the people in those parts for the amount of money they have contributed under P.F.A.A. They have been making payments under P.F.A.A. ever since 1939. They have paid a lot of money in, but they have not received a cent in return because in that area they rarely lose enough of their grain to qualify for payments out of the fund. This area generally produces good crops. Heavy losses were sustained there, as a result of the money which was stolen from the farmers of western Canada under the U.K.-Canadian wheat agreement. The losses were heavy because these farmers sold a lot of that grain. As I said the other night, I believe they should receive better treatment than this bill offers. I really believe that the minister, after having this bill passed, ought to begin to think of something a little better than this to aid the people in these grain growing areas.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.