

members are aware, the Canada Grain Act is one of the most important pieces of Canadian legislation.

This Bill was sent to the Committee on Agriculture of the other House, and the members of the Board of Grain Commissioners appeared before that committee. Every clause was thoroughly discussed and some minor changes were made, and the Bill in its present form, I think, was agreed to by all parties interested. That is, the elevator people, the milling interests and the producers' organizations all agreed on the amendments that were made.

One of the important amendments contained in this Bill allows the mixing of some of the tough grades with standard grades up to, I think, 17 per cent, and the bringing of tough grades up to standard by mixing with the dry. The result of this will be to reduce the spread in price to the farmer between tough grades and standard grades. Not very many years ago elevators were buying the tough grades at from 8 to 10 cents a bushel less than the price of the standard grades, and as a consequence the producers suffered. One of the principal amendments will have the effect of bringing the price of grain that is slightly tough nearer to the price of standard grade.

There has also been some difficulty about the mixing of grades. Mixing was outlawed, so to speak, in the terminal elevators, but not in the country elevators. The result was that large country elevators were built for the alleged purpose of mixing. This measure prevents that sort of thing. It gives the millers a little more leeway in selling grain they have purchased for grinding purposes. That matter was gone into thoroughly, not only in the committee of the House of Commons, but in the House itself, on the report of the committee, and it was decided that the present provision would be in the interests of the milling business in Canada, which is quite an important enterprise, as well as in the interests of the producers of wheat.

This legislation is largely a matter of detail; so without going further I will simply move the second reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I have reviewed the debate that took place in the other House, which was astonishingly brief in view of the subject-matter of the Bill, and I have also given as much study as I could to the main amendments proposed.

As the honourable member who introduces the measure (Hon. Mr. Marshall) says, the Bill is not nearly as formidable as it looks. While it is half an inch thick, the great bulk of it is composed of schedules. I am not yet

quite clear as to why all these schedules should be reprinted in the Bill. I think that the main amendments are contained in the first part of the Bill, and that the amendments to the schedules could have been set out in 5 per cent of the space they now occupy.

Nevertheless, this Bill is of some importance. Its main features are those enunciated by the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall). One provision which has been contested most strenuously relates to the mixing of grades. I may be wrong, but I think the Bill permits not only mixing of junior grades, the tough grades, with the four standard grades, but also mixing of standard grades themselves. This seems strange in view of the fact that for at least thirty years, ever since I entered Parliament, there has been a war about the mixing of grades. Apparently the whole war was over nothing, for now we are practically going back to the old licence, and we have waged a great conflict merely about the price of a hair.

There are some other amendments which I think are worth while, and therefore I suggest that the Bill be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee. I understand this is the intention of the sponsor (Hon. Mr. Marshall). In the Senate we have always dealt with amendments to the Grain Act in that committee. It is advisable to have a reference to committee, because it is not at all impossible that even persons who felt satisfied with the measure when it left the other House may have amendments to suggest here. I do not know. Certain objections were stated, though not strongly pressed, before the Bill did pass. I have no doubt whatever that when it gets through our Banking and Commerce Committee it will not be altered in any very substantial degree. But it should go to that committee.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Why does my right honourable friend express a preference for the Banking and Commerce Committee over the Committee on Agriculture?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Because the Grain Act has always been reviewed in our Banking and Commerce Committee. We are to have before us another bill, dealing with live stock grading, which undoubtedly should go to the Agriculture Committee.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

#### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL moved that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.