

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, May 23rd, 1922.

The Committee met at eleven o'clock A.M., Mr. Kay, the Chairman, presiding. Present:—Baldwin, Boivin, Bouchard, Boucher, Bourassa, Bowen, Brethen, Cahill, Caldwell, Campbell, Chew, Clifford, Crerar, Déchéne, Delisle, Desaulniers, Desrochers, Duncan, Evans, Fafard, Fontaine, Förke, Forrester, Fournier, Garland (Bow River), Gauvreau, Gendron, Gervais, Good, Halbert, Hatfield, Jeliff, Johnson (Moosejaw), Kennedy (Glengarry and Stormont), Knox, Lanctôt, Lapierre, Léger, Lovett, Lovie, Lucas, MacLean (Prince), McConica, McCrear, McKay, McMaster, Malcolm, Marcile (Bagot), Maybee, Millar, Milne, Morin, Morrison, Morrissey, Motherwell, Munro, Niel, Ouimet, Papineau, Prévost, Pritchard, Rankin, Raymond, Robinson, Sales, Savard, Sexsmith, Sinclair (Queens, P.E.I.), Stevens, Stewart (Humbolt), Sutherland, Thompson, Thurston, Tobin, Warner, White and Wilson.—78.

The Chairman read the following Report from the sub-committee appointed to prepare a draft Report as the Report of this Committee to the House:—

DRAFT OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

Your Committee on Agriculture and Colonization begs to report as follows:

(1) That on the 23rd March, 1922, a Memorandum from the Canadian Council of Agriculture, requesting the re-establishment of the Canada Wheat Board of 1919, was laid before the House of Commons.

(2) That on the 27th March, 1922, it was moved by the Honourable W. R. Motherwell and agreed to that the said Memorandum be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization.

(3) That your Committee has been engaged for many weeks past in the hearing of witnesses representing the views of various occupations and industries affected or liable to be affected by the proposed legislation,—including Messrs. James Stewart and F. W. Riddell, who had been prominently associated with the operations of the Canada Wheat Board of 1919,—and in the discussion of the question.

(4) That at an early meeting of the Committee the question as to the constitutionality of the proposed re-constitution by the Federal Government of the Canada Wheat Board was raised, and on the 4th of April, 1922, the Chairman of the Committee presented its second Report, which was in the following terms:

“That without delaying investigation by this committee as to the advisability of the re-establishment of the Canada Wheat Board, the matter of the constitutionality of such re-establishment be referred to the Supreme Court of Canada and that every effort be made to secure decision at an early date.”

As well as the third Report of the Committee, which read as follows:

“That the reference to the Committee of the Memorandum of Council of Agriculture be enlarged and that the Committee be instructed to consider also the suggestion of a “Voluntary Pool”, under control of the Government and working in conjunction with the elevator system now owned by the Government, and also the proposal of marketing of the wheat crop by the co-operative system, and to report to the House its findings.”

(5) The following day, on the 5th April, 1922, the Chairman of the Committee moved that these Reports be concurred in. The Motion stood until the 7th April, 1922, when it was moved by the Right Honourable Mr. Meighen, by way of an amendment,