

LIVE STOCK ACTS AMENDMENT

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend and consolidate the Acts respecting Live Stock, and to provide for the establishment and regulation of live stock exchanges in connection with stock-yards, the making and amending of by-laws, the issuing of licenses for commission merchants, the creation of Exporters' Associations, the regulation and issuing of licenses therefor, the equipment and regulation of stock-yards, the fixing of tariffs of fees therefor, the prescribing of general regulations of stock-yards by the Governor in Council, the requirements for shipping of live stock, the creation of inspectors and the providing for ports of importation; and to provide penalties for violations of the Act.

Motion agreed to and House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Mr. Chairman, the bill that is to be introduced, based upon this resolution, is a consolidation of the Live Stock and Produce Act of some years ago and all the amendments thereto. The new features of the bill are important though not numerous.

First, the bill provides for the removal of members of live stock exchanges when they are expelled by their fellow-members. In the past, live stock exchanges, although able to discipline members for misdemeanors, have had no authority to carry their decisions into effect. This provision will give the Department of Agriculture the necessary authority to carry out the wishes of live stock exchanges in that respect.

The bill also provides for the establishment of an egg-breaking plant to take care of inferior eggs, of which there are always some in Canada. A good many of these eggs in the past have been imported from China for baking purposes. We think now we have sufficient domestic supply of these eggs to satisfy our own requirements if they are taken care of in such a plant, where after being broken they are dried or frozen.

Exporters' associations are also provided for. As soon as the cattle embargo is taken off by the British authorities we expect our present exporters' associations will be supplemented by the organization of others, and by this amendment these institutions are brought within the provisions of the act.

We also propose to supervise imports of live stock and live stock products as to grading and such like to see that they comply with the standards set up under our own grading system.

I think that in a general way outlines the main features of the bill, which, after all, is

[Mr. Sutherland.]

largely a consolidation of the laws that we already have, merely supplementing them by giving additional authority to the department. It is not a money bill.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Do I understand that the words "to provide for the creation of Exporters' Associations" do not apply to the department, or is it the intention of the government to organize such associations?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is intended only to supervise the regulations of these associations and by incorporating them in our own regulations thus giving them the authority of law.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The wording of the resolution is "to provide for the creation of Exporters' Associations."

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have a number of these associations now, but they are more or less disjointed, and we are providing for them to be recognized as legally constituted institutions. We have found a disposition in certain of our live stock yards to challenge our authority over their administration. The purpose of these changes is to make it quite clear that the Department of Agriculture has full jurisdiction over them, and that when any violations of the regulations occur we can give full effect to the law. In a word, our intention is to put the O.K. of parliament on the by-laws and regulations of these organizations and so incorporate them as part of the regulations of the department.

Mr. GARDINER: Is it proposed to provide against discrimination in the unloading of cars at stockyards throughout Canada? In some cases railway companies have to unload the stock in the yards of competing companies, and I could produce evidence to show that where a railway sends its stock into the yard of a competing company, say after six o'clock at night, and the company owning the yard brings its stock in perhaps in the middle of the night or early in the morning, the company that owns the yard sees to it that its stock is unloaded first. I was wondering whether provision would be made in the bill to do away with that discrimination.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If this has to do with alleged discrimination on the part of railways, I should think it would have to be taken up in connection with the provisions of the Railway Act. I will make a note of what my hon. friend says and see whether such a provision can be incorporated in the bill, but I do not think it can.

Mr. GARDINER: I suggest that the Minister take the matter up and consider it care-