

go to a man of law. We therefore wonder why, when it comes to as important a matter as feed, we must go to a minister who does not know the difference between barley and oats, or the difference between wheat flour and buckwheat flour.

I presume that applies somewhat to the Leader of the Senate, as at any rate it does to me. However, I know something about the problem this bill seeks to solve. But I shall take up only a few minutes of the time of the house, knowing that other senators, on this side of the house, who are familiar with agricultural problems, will have the opportunity of expressing their views.

The problem of feed grain in not a new one to livestock feeders in the East. As it has already been pointed out here, since 1941 the transport of feed grain has been subsidized to help eastern feeders. But this policy which was limited to granting transport subsidies did not give satisfactory results. That is why eastern livestock producers had for many years urged the government to do something about it, such as setting up an agency which would see to it that eastern feeders would be adequately supplied with feed grain, at a reasonable price. The main problem facing livestock feeders in eastern Canada was that the scarcity of feed grain during certain periods of the year pushed up prices. Such market fluctuations, especially during winter months, prevented the feeder from assessing with any degree of accuracy what his returns would be. Price stability would put the feeder in a better position to determine the price at which he could sell his livestock. We know that this matter of supplying eastern feeders with feed grain at adequate prices was the pet subject of Mr. Clément Vincent, who was federal Member of Parliament for Nicolet-Yamaska from 1962 to 1965 and who today is the Minister of Agriculture in the Quebec government. I think his untiring efforts most certainly helped to bring about the piece of legislation now before us.

Hon. Mr. Denis: He was not the only one.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I quite agree with Senator Denis that he was not the only one, but at the beginning he was practically preaching in the wilderness. I know that today certain people belonging to the same political group as my honourable friend, Senator Denis, would like to have initiated this policy. However, I think Mr. Vincent should not be denied the credit he deserves, but at the same time the work

done by Senator Denis' friends in promoting this legislation should not be overlooked.

Hon. Mr. Denis: The wilderness was from 1958 to 1962.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: My honourable friend was at the time sitting opposite me on the other side of the house, and I became dizzy when I used to gaze at the wilderness surrounding Senator Denis.

The obvious purpose of this legislation is to create a body known as the Canadian Livestock Feed Board. I quote the objects of section 5 without discussing them in detail, as follows:

- (a) the availability of feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;
- (b) the availability of adequate storage space in Eastern Canada for feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;
- (c) reasonable stability in the price of feed grain in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia; and
- (d) fair equalization of feed grain prices in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia.

It seems, incidentally, that the problem is almost the same in British Columbia as in eastern Canada. In short, this legislation guarantees supplies and firm prices of feed grain for livestock feeders of eastern Canada and British Columbia.

For those purposes, the Board is granted every useful power; it is allowed to continue subsidizing transportation costs and to buy in any manner, even abroad, some feed grain to be stored so as to provide livestock feeders during periods of shortage, especially during the winter, with the feed grain which they would need, and once more at a reasonable price.

Of course, the Board will be faced with numerous problems. It has been pointed out, for instance, that if the Board bought feed grain outside Canada, it would enter into competition with the Canadian Wheat Board and with western wheat growers. It is obvious that the Board will only make use of this provision or power in extreme cases. This is one of the theoretical problems which have been emphasized.

It may also be asked whether the Board will not enter into unfair competition with