

Fertilizers Act

that have a mixture of both light and heavy soils, and both the farmer himself—my hon. friend shakes his head.

Mr. CHARLTON: There are many fertilizers we cannot get.

Mr. GARDINER: There are certain mixtures you cannot get because there is a shortage of some ingredients.

Mr. CHARLTON: Not now.

Mr. GARDINER: There is.

Mr. HATFIELD: The potato farmer in the state of Maine can get different mixtures that we cannot get.

Mr. GARDINER: We do not live in the United States.

Mr. HATFIELD: But there is an international board that controls the supply of materials.

Mr. WARREN: The hon. member for Kamloops said that farmers will be glad to experiment with fertilizers. I think that is nonsense because the farmer would have to use a number of different types of fertilizer and would have to wait over a term of years to find out which gave the best results, and the factor of weather would also enter into it and sometimes make a great deal of difference.

I am very glad that some of our western friends have had a good word to say regarding the officials who have been handling the distribution of fertilizer. Personally I have a great deal of respect for these officials.

Mr. HOMUTH: No one is attacking the officials. Do not try to get away with that.

Mr. WARREN: The hon. member for Waterloo South did not have anything nice to say about the officials when I asked him if he had no respect for them.

Mr. HOMUTH: I have a great deal of respect for the judgment of the farmers who till the soil.

Mr. WARREN: I have a great deal of respect for the officials who have been doing this work in Renfrew county. In my opinion, they have made and are making a good job of it. They are relieving the farmer of much worry that he might otherwise have. What farmer has the time or opportunity to make tests of his own soils and study the different mixtures until he finds the most suitable one? I think the shortage of fertilizer ingredients has been very well handled by the officials, particularly in the outlying districts. I would be glad to see this clause carried as it is.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. FERGUSON: The question is, are these controls necessary because there is a definite shortage of fertilizer materials now that the war is over? Or is it the case of a few members of the government and the entire C.C.F. party saying that, now that it is being handled by the government, they should retain the possession of this? This is what you shall buy, no more and no less, whether you like it or not. Or is it a case of wanting to retain this act as it is and not willing to vote on the amendment because there is a definite shortage and the commodity cannot be supplied? If that is so, let the minister state that we must have this act as it is without the amendment because there is a shortage, and this is the only method by which the farmer can receive his equal share. If there is not a shortage, please let the people of Canada select and buy for themselves. The farmers of Canada do not need to be protected by the government from being gyped.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Is the committee ready for the question?

Amendment negatived.

Bill reported.

Mr. SPEAKER: When shall the bill be read the third time?

Mr. BRACKEN: Mr. Speaker, when an amendment has been moved in committee I should like to know if third reading can be given to the bill now.

Mr. MACKENZIE: With the unanimous consent of the house.

Mr. GARDINER: There is only one reason for having it read the third time tonight, namely, to get some work over to the senate. If anyone wishes to have it left over, that will be quite satisfactory.

MILITIA PENSION ACT

EXTENSION OF PROVISION OF ACT TO CERTAIN GROUPS

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. 5, to amend the Militia Pension Act—Mr. Claxton—Mr. Golding in the chair.

On section 2.

Mr. PEARKES: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the object of section 2 is to recognize the preparations which a large number of men of this country gave to be prepared in the event of a war breaking out during a period of time between great war I and great war II. It covers all this personnel