

Mr. CALDWELL: Within the last six months there has been formed what is now known as the New Brunswick Certified Seed-Potato Growers' Association, and this man of whom I have spoken is president of that association. It is made up of men who are large growers, who have had extensive experience in growing and marketing seed. I might say further that this man marketed this crop without the certification of the official of the department, and he got a good return for it. The man to whom he sold it did not demand that it be graded according to the inspector's ruling at all. He had seen the potatoes growing in the field during the summer; he knew that they were all of one variety and also that they were free from disease because he had looked over the field himself. He has told the officials of the Seed Growers' Association that he will not require this kind of grading. He took out the bruised potatoes and any ill-shaped ones, as anyone would do, but he did not demand that the potatoes be all of one size or of exactly one shape.

The method of inspection adopted is going to hamper our seed growers, especially in view of the fact that we hope to get a reduction in the freight on certified seed potatoes. I hope and I believe that we will get that. If, however, the potato growers do not comply with this grading, they do not get the certificate and, therefore, they will not get the reduced freight rate. While I am aware that we cannot settle this matter here to-day, I should like the minister to consider it; and to have representatives of the Seed Growers' Association meet officials of the minister's department who have charge of this work, so that they may go into this matter, because I know the Department of Agriculture does not want to impose any regulations or restrictions that will do an injury to any industry of that character.

Further, I think certified seed growing, is the only future of that industry in the Maritimes. Owing to the Fordney tariff we are shut out of the United States market for table potatoes, because the price we can get for that stock will not pay the duty and transportation charges and leave the farmer anything. On certified seed, however, the case is different. I think the minister was well within the mark when he said that certified stock was worth half as much again as table stock. I think he would have been safe in saying that it was worth twice as much. We can get a good price for that class of potatoes. The duty is not an ad valorem duty, but so much a hundred, and we can pay the duty and ship the seed to the United States. We have a permanent market in the southern states

for all the seed we can supply; in fact, we have never been able to supply the demand. There are several reasons for that which I will not take up the time of the committee at present to state. But I would like the minister to consider my suggestion and arrange to have officials of his department meet some of the certified seed growers of the Maritime provinces and go into this matter of final inspection and grading. We are well satisfied with all the other features of the inspection.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have no record of the complaint which my hon. friend has spoken of, but I might draw his attention to the fact that there are three inspections, no two of which are in themselves sufficient. There are certain diseases determinable only when the potato is graded. My hon. friend knows a number: for instance, blackleg, rot and blight. The very fact that there is a third inspection called for when the potatoes are in the bin shows that there is a possibility of the potatoes not passing the bin inspection when they have passed the growing inspection. The scab is a variable disease. Sometimes it is very pronounced, and sometimes it is loose scab, which is really not scab, but which at the same time a buyer thinks is scab. Then there is dry rot.

Mr. CALDWELL: Possibly the reason why the minister has not received any of these complaints is that the regulations were put into force only last year. I have had mine inspected for a number of years until last year, and the inspection was a bin inspection. The inspector came to your bin, looked the bin over, handled the potatoes, and decided whether they were all right or not. Last year there was a physical grading. When you were bagging them to load, the inspector superintended the grading and you had to grade them according to his regulations. That is what the potato growers object to. They do not object to the bin inspection, nor to the field inspection, which they consider all right.

There is one other point which I would like to draw to the notice of the minister, and which I think I pointed out last year. We have in New Brunswick certain dealers, shippers, who are not growers of potatoes, who will buy good-looking potatoes, put them into their bins and select them. This is what they call select seeds. They grade these and they get their own certificate printed marked, "Certified Seed Potatoes", although they are not certified by anybody. This was done a good deal, and I believe it