

Its duties—and I shall quote the words of section 15 (6)—will be:

to study and review all matters relating to feed grain transportation, storage, prices and consumption that it may deem necessary, together with those that are referred to it either by the Minister or by the Board.

In addition to that, the committee will have the duty of reporting to the minister and to the board, of which it is the servant.

Now may I return to the board itself. The objects, powers and duties of the board are set out in sections 5 to 8 of the bill. In these sections is prescribed the proposed basic policy for the approach to the feed grain problem in Canada.

These sections indicate the objects of the board are to ensure a number of things: first, the availability of feed grain to meet the needs of the feeders; second, the adequacy of storage space, particularly in eastern Canada; third, reasonable stability in prices, both in eastern Canada and in British Columbia; and, fourth, the fair equalization of these prices in these two extreme areas of Canada, namely, eastern Canada and British Columbia.

I think it reasonable to conclude from this, honourable senators, that the basic source of supply of feed grains would continue to be the prairies. This, of course, does not preclude the production of feed grain in other parts of the country; and there is obviously room for development on the west coast, in the central provinces and the Maritime provinces. Indeed, if the foreseeable needs of 1980 are to be met, as indicated by what I have placed before the Senate this afternoon, there must be development; and I, for one, hope there can be great expansion in production.

Section 6 of the bill deals with the duties of the board. It authorizes the board to subsidize storage and transportation to further its objectives; to negotiate for storage or handling in the interests of reducing and stabilizing the costs of storage and handling in eastern Canada; to allocate space for storage facilities in eastern Canada; to negotiate import permits and licenses, when required—and sometimes they are required when you have crop failures or short supply in certain areas for certain ingredients of feeds. And the board has the usual powers to acquire, hold or dispose of real property; to carry out studies relating to feed grain prices; to require information from feeders and persons engaged in the business in all its ramifications; to establish branches of the board or employ agents

of the board in Canada or elsewhere; to act as agent for Her Majesty in respect of its operations; and generally to do whatever is required to meet its purposes and functions.

Section 7 of the bill fixes certain duties of the board. They include, first, the study of the requirements for feed grain in eastern Canada and on the west coast, and its availability and storage needs.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: I wonder if the honourable senator would define the term "eastern". What is the western boundary of eastern Canada?

Hon. Mr. Benidickson: The Lakehead—and I object to that.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): As a matter of fact, the Lakehead is the quick answer. I will come to that, if I may, in just a moment. Generally speaking, it is the Lakehead.

Its other duties are: to make recommendations to the minister on storage facilities; generally, to advise the government on questions of stabilization in respect of the equalization of feed grain prices to feeders; and to consult with other appropriate departments and agencies of government.

In addition, the Government, by order in council, may empower the board to investigate certain problems relating to the transportation, storage and handling of feed grains in eastern Canada and British Columbia; the supplies and prices of feed grain in these areas; and payments related to the cost of feed grains, storage and transportation made under the act.

In addition to these broad powers given to try to cope with this problem that is before the Canadian people and the Canadian farm community, the board is empowered to purchase feed grains in eastern Canada, British Columbia and in the west, provided the latter purchases are made through the Canadian Wheat Board.

The board is empowered to import feed grain and pay the cost thereof for resale in Canada; and to acquire, ship, store and handle feed grain for the same purposes.

In the selling of feed grain the board is directed by the bill to do so in accordance with sound commercial business practice. This practice will apply not only to purchases, but as well to the cost of handling, storage and transporting feed products, and the administration cost of this activity; and it must recover the administrative and other costs it incurs in the exercise of its powers.