

there is any legislation in the United States affecting Dakota and Minnesota alone.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I think the member for South Perth (Mr. Trow) ought to support this Bill. He says the system, so far, has been in favour of the buyer and to the detriment of the seller. Here is a case where a large proportion of the crop, as stated by the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) does not come up to the standard, and the farmer is at the mercy of the buyer because his wheat will not grade at the standard. But for this exceptional circumstance we propose that the seller shall not be at the mercy of the buyer, and that the wheat which will not come under the higher grades shall have a special classification for that one year. The hon. gentleman says we ought not to legislate for the North-West specially, but the hon. gentlemen representing that section of the country all say they desire this legislation. It has been pressed upon my notice, and has passed the Senate, and now comes here. There has been no objection to it from any quarter.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would like to get an answer to my question. I asked the hon. gentleman if the proposition had been submitted to, or recommended by, the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto; or has there been special legislation of this kind with regard to the North-Western States?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I do not know anything about the legislation of the North-Western States.

Mr. McMULLEN. With regard to the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I do not know that they expressed any opinion on the subject.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) says they did not obtain a proper price for their grain, although it was perfectly good and was of excellent quality, but it had been injured by the summer drought; that is, the wheat had matured, but it was shrunk. Well, under the existing provisions that grain would be graded as sound wheat, but it would not be graded as first-class wheat; certainly it would not rank along with wheat that was immature and had suffered from frost. If it were graded it would simply show the incompetence of those who had graded wheat in the North-West, it would not show anything else; it would not show that something novel and special was required. The statement of the hon. gentleman only shows that the work is imperfectly done under the law as it is, not that further legislation is needed. I am at a loss to understand why you undertake to make special grades. What is the object? Surely, if there is a certain year when grain is frosted, when it is not matured, there ought to be a grade for that, and whenever a need occurs, whenever that sort of wheat is put upon the market, there should be a standard by which it might be tried. The hon. gentleman proposes by this legislation to create a special grade for a particular year, by which you could not compare the wheat that was put upon the market under that grade with any grain elsewhere; there will be no possibility of doing that. Certainly in this matter the law must adjust itself to circumstances, not circumstances to the law. You are obliged to apply the same rules in Canada that are applied in the United

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States, that are applied in Russia. You cannot make a different rule, because when the grain goes to the markets of Europe where it is required for consumption, it will be judged by the standard that exists there; and you cannot make any standard that will be of any value, because it will only enable unscrupulous buyers to take advantage of the agricultural population that have such grain for sale.

Mr. COSTIGAN. This is entirely in the interest of the agriculturists, and against unscrupulous buyers.

Mr. CHARLTON. How would the Minister of Inland Revenue look upon a proposition arbitrarily changing the grading of sugar under the present arrangement of the Dutch standard, and making an exceptional grade of sugar applicable to a certain province? It would be a piece of absurdity, yet it would be exactly on the same line as this proposed legislation. Here is the article of wheat which is known in all the markets of the world by certain qualities, certain grades, and it is impossible to change that when it reaches the ultimate market; and if you interfere with that grading in Manitoba, or the grading that will be applied to wheat in England, you are simply working mischievous consequences, and will do nobody any good. The idea of making special legislation in this matter applicable to one province, is, in my opinion, a wrong principle altogether. You might just as well introduce in one province a different standard of weights and measures instead of having it uniform throughout the Dominion. I think we had better retrace the steps we have taken here, and conclude that the grading of wheat, which is customary in the markets of the world, we cannot interfere with in this House. We cannot make of frosted wheat in Manitoba a No. 1 wheat, we cannot make No. 2 wheat No. 1 wheat, we cannot by legislation change the quality of wheat, we cannot change the grading that wheat will receive when it goes into the markets of the world, and consequently we had better let the matter alone.

Mr. MACDONALD (Winnipeg). I do not think some of the hon. gentlemen opposite who have spoken on this question understand the real scope of this Bill. There is no intention of having frozen wheat called No. 1 hard—that is not thought of for a moment. The fact is that in certain years in the North-West a part of the crop has been caught by frost, or has deteriorated in value in other ways. In the past that wheat has been graded just as this Act proposes that wheat now shall be graded, that is to say, it is known as No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, with the word "commercial" added. It is not understood by anyone there that "No. 1 commercial" means "No. 1 hard." The only object in asking for this legislation now is that, whereas in the past these grades known as commercial grades have been well known to the trade there. The inspector has felt uncertain as to whether he was justified in issuing certificates grading the wheat according to these commercial grades. If these grades are not established, this wheat has to be left ungraded altogether, and the consequence is that the farmer, whom hon. gentlemen opposite are so anxious to protect, is the very one who suffers, because instead of having his wheat graded, he is obliged to sell it by sample, which is very much to the advantage of the buyer. As long as