

Canadian Wheat Board Act

and slanderous article on a very fine, progressive and worth-while Canadian community.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE

412. Departmental administration, \$173,295.

Item stands.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again this day.

Progress reported.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONTROL OF ELEVATORS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. 252, to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935—Mr. Howe—Mr. Dion in the chair.

On section 1—*Constitution of board.*

Mr. Ross (Souris): Could the minister state the average total annual world production of wheat, and what percentage Canada produces?

Mr. Howe: I cannot give that answer at the moment. I shall ask my officials to come down to the floor of the house and hope to be able to give it shortly.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I do not know whether I understood the minister aright this morning, but I believe he said that the Chicago market did not have any bearing on the wheat we sold, that we were getting whatever bids we could. The minister said also there was forty cents difference between the two markets.

Mr. Howe: Thirty to forty cents.

Mr. Ross (Souris): The last quotation over the week end according to the *Globe and Mail* shows two cents difference between Chicago and Canadian No. 2.

Mr. Howe: What location? What basis?

Mr. Ross (Souris): Chicago and Winnipeg. I suppose Winnipeg would be basis Fort William. That is what is in the newspaper quotations for markets.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the minister explain why the number of members is being raised to five?

Mr. Howe: The difficulty is that the board has taken on additional duties. One of them is to represent Canada at the international wheat agreement organization which has its headquarters in London, England. Another

[Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough).]

is to market coarse grains. There has been a good deal of illness among members of the board, and there have been two or three changes in the board within the last two years. The pressure of work is heavy and, if the board is reduced from three to two, two members are hardly able to keep up with the work of the board. I am asking the house to make provision for two additional members with the thought that perhaps we will appoint one additional member in the next few months. One member of the present board has been in the hospital for the last two or three months which leaves only two members to function. One of them is on his way to England, and the other has been summoned to appear before a committee of the house which leaves no member of the board in Winnipeg to carry on its work. The provision for additional members is simply a precaution which we may or may not take advantage of. It depends a good deal on whether we can find a qualified man available for appointment.

Mr. Coldwell: That seems a very good reason. I wondered if it was to give more representation to the producers of this country.

Mr. Howe: That is a thought as well, but the main thing is to get men who are competent to sell wheat. I believe my hon. friend thinks that is paramount, and if we can get them from the producers' interests we will of course be interested.

Mr. Fair: Can the minister give us the names of those on the advisory committee?

Mr. Howe: I would refer my hon. friend to page 11 of the annual report of the wheat board which lists the names. They are Lou Hutchinson, Calgary, Alberta; D. I. Walker, Toronto; J. C. A. Nijdam, Winnipeg; F. H. Clendinning, Vancouver; J. Theo Roy, Montreal; J. H. Wesson, Regina; R. C. Brown, Winnipeg; F. Pettypiece, Auld, Ontario; J. A. McCowan, Summerberry, Saskatchewan; P. Farnalls, Halkirk, Alta; and C. E. Hayles, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. Ross (Souris): The minister was going to give me an answer about the production of wheat.

Mr. Howe: The world production of wheat is about 4 billion bushels and Canada produces from 8 to 10 per cent of the total.

Mr. Ross (Souris): Eight to ten per cent of that.

Mr. Howe: Depending on the size of the crop.

Mr. Ross (Souris): There was another question. I asked the minister two or three times, and he made a statement the other day, about