

Canada Grain Act

The fact remains that the board of grain commissioners never had any authority to allocate box cars. Possibly under section 15 (k) they could allocate cars as between stations, but that is all they could do. Acting unofficially the controller has tried to help because he is in constant contact with the railroads. His efforts have relieved the situation in some places. I do not think anyone has any complaint to make as to the allocation between stations. The hon. member has raised this point consistently every year in these debates but the fact is that these people are not involved, because they have no authority in the matter. Authority has never been given to them.

This bill is not what the wheat pool is asking for. The wheat pool has made its own suggestion, which will be placed before the agriculture committee. I expect that their representatives will be there to defend it, and I expect also that representatives of the line companies will be there to present their case. We will then be in position to appraise the situation and see if anything can be done.

It has been said that this box car shortage will be a continuing condition, and with that I agree to a degree. It is quite likely that there will be congestion at the time of harvesting for perhaps three or four weeks, but apart from that it is quite likely that there will not be the necessity to allocate box cars.

It comes down to this one fundamental, that there are just not enough cars to go around and you cannot split a car in two.

We have tried various methods and they have not worked. According to the experts the method suggested by the hon. member for Assiniboia is not workable either. The pool have another one, and there are grave doubts whether that will be workable. However, we do not know the details but we will find out later about it. I suggest that this debate should be postponed until hon. members have had an opportunity to discuss the whole matter in the agriculture committee. They will then be in better position to make recommendations.

May I call it six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): At eight o'clock the house will resume consideration of the business it was considering at five o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[Mr. Jutras.]

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

THE BUDGET**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Macdonnell, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. E. G. Hansell (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, before five o'clock I had just a few minutes to begin my presentation on the budget, and at that time I stated that I did not quite comprehend why the budget that is brought down from year to year had been so glamourized. I stated that for my own part I considered it one of the driest speeches during the whole parliamentary session, perhaps because a good deal of it was technical. I wondered why it should be surrounded with such glamour for, after all, almost any budget that is brought down is bad news. However, it is glamourized.

I remember many years ago the first budget speech I listened to. Hon. Mr. Dunning, who presented that budget, came dressed for the occasion in his morning coat and striped trousers, and with a flower in his lapel. It certainly added to the dignity of the occasion, but when I attempted to analyse that budget and discover what he had done for the people in those depression days, I wondered why he really needed to don such finery.

Mr. Knowles: The morning coat was appropriate, if it is spelled right.

Mr. Hansell: If it is spelled right. The practice evidently has continued; although the present finance minister did not wear such dignified apparel, he did put on his Sunday clothes and wore a flower in his lapel.

I am not so interested in why he should look his neatest when he presents a budget. The amazing thing to me is that the people crowd into the gallery so much to listen to that speech. If they were only wise they would tune in their radios that night, or go out and buy a newspaper, and they could read in about three minutes the thing they really wanted to find out; that is, whether or not they were going to get any relief from their taxation. But when I see them in the gallery, crowded as they are, I cannot help thinking that they look like several hundred or a thousand prisoners in the dock. There