

Mr. ROBB: It is not a question of government policy; it is a question of the Board of Grain Commissioners administering an act of parliament, and the act provides that they shall collect these overages. As yet, however, these returns have not been received for 1926. We will probably have them available by the time we reach the main estimates, because my deputy informs me that they are expected daily.

Mr. GARDINER: Can the minister tell the committee whether it is the intention of the board to collect these overages?

Mr. ROBB: The act of parliament provides that they shall collect them.

Mr. GARDINER: Has the minister any information as to the intentions of the Board of Grain Commissioners?

Mr. ROBB: I understand that the Board of Grain Commissioners are the servants of parliament and they must carry out the act.

Mr. GARDINER: What would happen if they did not carry out the act?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Put them in the tower.

Mr. GARDINER: Is that to say that any public servants working under a certain act passed by this parliament can do as they like?

Mr. ROBB: No, the intention of the government is that they shall carry out the law as it stands.

Mr. GARDINER: Can the minister assure the House that this law will be carried out?

Mr. ROBB: I shall direct this to the attention of my colleague to-morrow morning.

Item agreed to.

Canada Grain Act—further amount required, \$350,000.

Mr. STEVENS: This is a large sum; what is it for?

Mr. ROBB: The amount voted in the main estimates was \$1,430,000. Of this sum now asked for, \$200,000 was to provide for the estimated additional requirements for 1925-26. The amount actually required, however, was only \$146,993.33, this sum being the amount of unpaid accounts on hand as of March 31, 1926. The balance, \$150,000, is to provide for the reorganization of the grain research laboratory and the establishment of other services in connection with the administration of the act. I think last year we made some commitments to improve the laboratory system.

Mr. EVANS: Is any provision being made to establish the relative value of some of the grades? There is great dissatisfaction throughout the country this year in relation to dried grain, the people feeling that they have not had a square deal as to the setting of the grades, particularly of grain that has come forward in a damp or tough state.

Mr. ROBB: I understand that Dr. Tory, the head of the research commission, is looking very closely into the matter, and the commission are getting along as fast as possible with the equipment for making the necessary chemical tests.

Mr. EVANS: Has he been authorized to do that?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Has anything been done towards grading the grain as the millers do, according to the protein content rather than following the practice adopted before? I have received some letters from the west on this subject. It seems that the millers in every case grade grain according to the protein content, and it is pointed out that this would be a practical way of carrying out the grading if the government, or the grain commission, would take the necessary steps to have it done. Has anything been done, or is anything contemplated, in that direction now?

Mr. ROBB: I think this vote is partly to provide for making an attempt along that line. Of course, as my hon. friend knows, each miller has his staff, and what they do is this: They test the wheat in different localities, and in localities where they discover that there is a larger percentage of gluten they pay a little more money for the wheat.

Mr. COOTE: Before the vote carries may I draw the attention of the minister to the advisability of conferring with this board? Possibly they would need to ask for a somewhat larger estimate next year if they desire to carry out the recommendation I wish to make. I suggest that they should make provision for enough travelling expenses so that the inspectors may be changed from one inspection district to another during the season. The greatest complaint that could be made against our inspection system at the present time is, I think, that there is nothing uniform about it. A sample of wheat which will grade No. 3 at Calgary will grade No. 2 at Winnipeg, and maybe No. 4 at Edmonton, or sometimes the reverse will be the case. At any rate there is nothing uniform about the system; it is quite easy to get two different grades on the same sample of grain. I think the best way