

*Agricultural Products Board*

be stored. It comes in in bulk, and has to be processed to the extent of having it put into pound packages. That could be considered processing.

That is all the paragraph refers to—that kind of thing that must be done in connection with the actual handling of a product.

**Mr. Charlton:** Is there anything else in the minister's mind? After all, packaging butter is not processing it.

**Mr. Gardiner:** We have no intention under this measure of going into the packing house business, if that is what the hon. member has in mind. It is just simply a matter of making arrangements to have a product stored.

**Mr. Charlton:** Then perhaps the minister has other services in mind?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Only in so far as they are authorized to buy. For instance, if the British were to come here and say, "We want pork products, and we would like this board to buy them for us", we would probably go to the packing houses who are receiving pork from all over the country, and say, "Here is the price you can have, the price which has been offered for it," and we would see that the transaction was carried through. In that way we would make arrangements to have the product frozen and stored and shipped, as would have to be done. But all the cost of that would be borne by somebody else, not by this board.

**Mr. Charlton:** I do not quite understand what the minister means.

**Mr. Gardiner:** The board would do what the purchaser decided he wanted to have done. Whatever he wanted done he would have to arrange payment for. But the board would act in seeing that it was handled through the usual facilities.

**Mr. Charlton:** The board themselves would not do it.

**Mr. Gardiner:** No.

**Mr. Charlton:** They would have the processor do it?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Yes.

**Mr. Charlton:** What has the minister in mind in connection with this section of the bill? Ordinarily the board would not do it themselves. They would have the processor do it, would they not?

**Mr. Gardiner:** They would have the authority to store it, for one thing. That is part of the process of transferring it from the producer to the consumer. Then they would have authority to pay for transport, and to

enter into a contract for the storing, transporting or processing of the agricultural products. They would enter into those contracts on behalf of whoever was purchasing the pork. The government would not be purchasing it. It might be the government of some other country, or a buyer in some other country. But they would be paying for it, not this board.

In actual fact they would handle the financing, but they would get their money from elsewhere.

**Mr. Charlton:** This board has the power to go out and buy goods, build huge factories and process the goods themselves?

**Mr. Gardiner:** If you will read the act you will see that this board really has no power to do anything. Someone was saying a moment ago that if this was just a matter of leaving power in the hands of the government they did not think very much would be accomplished. Well, that is what it does do. The board will not get any instructions under the bill to go into the packing house business.

**Mr. Charlton:** I have one further question in connection with subsection 2 which states:

The authority given by the governor in council and the direction given by the minister to the board pursuant to subsection one may be given generally or in any specific case or with respect to any particular matter.

Could the minister state where he would give a general order? Why does he want the word "generally" in the subsection? Ordinarily you would tell the board to go out and buy butter or cheese, but what would the general order be?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Probably I should not put it this way, but that is not something that I wanted in there. You know, there are people, and naturally so, who want to place a little restriction on the minister and that section pretty well does that. If you read it carefully you will see that it is the governor in council that does the instructing. I do not think there is going to be any instruction given which can be criticized in any way.

**Mr. Charlton:** I do not see any restriction upon the minister in that section. It reads:

The authority given by the governor in council and the direction given by the minister—

That puts the minister in the same spot as the governor in council.

**Mr. Gardiner:** You have to read that along with subsection 1.

**Mr. Charlton:** That reads:

Subject to the regulations, the board may, with the authority of the governor in council and under the direction of the minister . . .

That is a separate part.