

believe we are thinking enough about them. Legislation is coming through and will be placed on the Statute Book, and I am told that it will mean not less than 100 million dollars to the country. I do not know whether that is true or not, but I should like to know. In addition to that, there is the risk in regard to the sale of this wheat, the price of which is being set at 90 cents a bushel. There is a fear that the loss may be greater in consequence of the higher price. Again I do not know, but I presume the Government knows, or has some idea of, what is likely to happen. I am not expecting an explanation to-day, but shall expect it when the Senate resumes after the Easter recess, and for this reason I am submitting the following inquiry:

1. What is the Government estimate of probable cost to the country under legislation they have submitted to Parliament during the current session providing for acreage bonus payments in respect to wheat, flax, and other grains and farm products; the increase to ninety cents per bushel as fixed price of wheat; and other expenditures, including cost of administration, under Bill No. 12, an Act respecting Wheat Acreage Reduction, Bill No. 13, an Act to amend The Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935, and Bill No. 14, an Act to amend The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939?

2. Have the Government estimated the probable or possible loss to the country in consequence of the fixing of wheat price at ninety cents per bushel; and, if so, what is the estimate?

SUPPLEMENTARY 1941 WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 19, an Act for granting to His Majesty Aid for National Defence and Security.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, we have arrived at the time of year when the Government's appropriations to carry on the business of the country usually reach this Chamber. This is one of four Bills which will come before us to-day.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Honourable senators, have these Bills been distributed? They do not seem to be on our files.

Hon. Mr. KING: These Bills are not here yet, but I was told they would probably be distributed some time this afternoon. There has been some delay at the Printing Bureau.

Hon. Mr. DONNELLY: Honourable senators, inasmuch as the money asked for in this case is to be used for national defence and security, something which we all approve of, I think, I for one do not intend to offer any opposition.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable senators, the Deputy of the Governor General is not coming here before six o'clock. If there is a chance that these Bills may be distributed before that time, could we not adjourn during pleasure and at least look over the Bills before we are asked to pass them?

Hon. Mr. KING: I should be glad to pass the honourable senator a copy of the Bill I have here, and it would not take him more than four or five minutes to look over it. If that is agreeable, we can proceed to take up the other bills. As I say, there has been some delay at the Printing Bureau. We all know it is essential that we pass these Bills this afternoon. It was my hope that after concluding our business we might adjourn during pleasure, until about twenty minutes to six, when members of the other House would come over and the Royal Assent would be given.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable senators, I have seen a copy of the first reading of this Bill, and I am entirely in agreement with it. But, rightly or wrongly, a considerable number of newspaper correspondents and others throughout the Dominion are taking the position that the Senate is not necessary under democratic conditions; that it is only a fifth wheel to the wagon. The point I raise is that we should not suggest we are interested only in getting by with the little work that comes to us and then closing up. It seems to me that if we are to perform our proper function in the interest of the Dominion of Canada, we should never attempt to deal with a bill before it has been distributed to us.

Hon. Mr. KING: I think the honourable senator's protest is sound, but I know he does not want to delay passage of this Bill. We are familiar with the character of the Bill, and I am sure the honourable senator will not object if we go ahead. I think we should proceed.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Go right ahead. Do as we have been doing for a long while.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: The honourable gentleman from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) is undoubtedly right. Ordinarily we should not pass a bill without seeing it. But in a sense,