

*Canadian Wheat Board Act*

paid by the board, I mean to the advantage of the board, and the average market price paid by private concerns. I am glad he said that, because all that we on this side have ever said is that we believe in a wheat board, but we believe in an alternative system of marketing. If the wheat board can pay more money than the other concerns can pay, then the wheat board will get the business and justify its existence. So that the hon. member, in having given the figures he has in favour of the wheat board—which I favour and which we all favour—is in this position. If the grain trade cannot pay as much, they will not get any grain. But let us have both and give the farmer an opportunity of choice.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that neither you nor any other hon. member will think I am setting myself up as an expert in the marketing of grain. Frankly, I do not think such people exist. The changes which have taken place in circumstances throughout the world and throughout this country in the last number of years have made all persons who make prophecies look rather foolish. In short, the position is this. We are living in a world where things are now changing infinitely more quickly than they did in times gone by. Therefore the value of precedents has been narrowed or cut down in view of these fast-changing conditions. Tonight I intend, with the information which I have, to discuss all methods of the marketing of western grains; that is, of wheat and coarse grains. I will say nothing about flax or rye unless my C.C.F. friends to my left want to know something more about rye. They changed that the last time I was on this subject, but I have no intention of dealing with it unless they, in the exuberance of their verbosity and, may I say it kindly, of their ignorance of the private marketing of grain, suggest it. I have no intention of touching upon rye.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member and I hope he will forgive me for doing so at this moment. But the hon. member realizes that we have before the house actually a resolution to go into committee of the whole which precedes a bill. In other words, the hon. member knows that whenever we have a money bill it must be preceded by a resolution. At this stage the discussion should be on the principle of the resolution. I wanted to intervene at this moment because, if I permitted the hon. member to discuss the opportunity to have a wheat board, the function of a wheat board, the marketing of grain and so on, I would be obliged to permit all other hon. members to do so if they wished, and we would probably have

[Mr. Smith (Calgary West).]

a repetition of debate on the second reading of the bill. So I would ask for the co-operation of all hon. members on both sides of the house in abiding by the rules, so that we may proceed with the business of the house. At this stage we should discuss only the principle of the resolution which is before the house. When the bill is introduced, hon. members knowing what is in the bill and knowing that on second reading they can also discuss the merits of the bill, it will be possible for a more general discussion to take place. But I do not think at this stage I should permit a long discussion on the opportunity of having a wheat board, prices of grain and so on. I should like to have the co-operation of hon. members in order that we may proceed with the business of the house.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Turning to the resolution itself, Mr. Speaker, at the bottom of page 6 of the order paper I find the following:

Resolved that it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

I intend to talk about nothing except the act and the amendment brought down in this resolution which seeks to amend the act. That being so, with the greatest respect and deference, sir, may I say I shall not depart from that and speak of anything except the amendment of the act. If perchance I, in my enthusiasm, do depart from it I hope that you will immediately interrupt me.

I repeat that I do not set myself up as an expert in the marketing of grain, but it is a subject upon which I have necessarily gained some information. I was born into the problem. My mother's parents occupied a homestead in pre-emption in the district of Foxleigh some twelve or fourteen miles north of Regina. We had no problems then about drought. Our only worry was early frost. Thanks to the research of a number of people, we have been provided with kinds of wheat which mature earlier, and the frost problem has not been a real one for a long time in western Canada. From that farm wheat was produced. It was No. 1 hard in those days. Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 northern had not, I think, yet been found at that time. I am not suggesting for a moment that we should revert to those days; but it is a fact that my grandparents on my mother's side from that half-section and with fifty-cent wheat, which was teamed twelve or fourteen miles to an elevator, were able to retire in Regina, build a little cottage and live there until they passed on.

Following on with the history—I hope the house will remember, because I am anxious