

*Farm Prices*

the opposition to this bill that we encountered in connection with the wheat board act. At that time an amendment was brought in providing that the measure should not become operative until August 1, 1936, a year later. You will not get that in this case, because we want this bill to operate properly, to take care of the post-war period.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Definitions.

Mr. HATFIELD: I should like to know why all agricultural products in a processed and manufactured state are not included in this bill. In my opinion that is the only way we can take the surplus off the market, namely, by processing and manufacturing agricultural products. In my view all agricultural products should be included in paragraph (a). All that are included are processed meats, and dairy and poultry products. We use the surplus potato crop by manufacturing the potatoes into potato starches and flour.

Mr. GARDINER: It is intended to cover all agricultural products, except wheat.

Mr. MARTIN: Including corn?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, including corn. "Agricultural products" means any products of agriculture, except wheat, designated by the governor in council, and includes processed meat, dairy and poultry products if so designated.

Mr. HATFIELD: Why "meat, dairy and poultry products"?

Mr. GARDINER: There was some question as to whether certain products, when some distance removed from the farm—and we had in mind corn flakes and things of that kind—might properly be included. I wanted to make absolutely certain that there would be no question about dairy products, and products of that kind. Those words were inserted for that reason.

Mr. WRIGHT: When the minister spoke upon introducing the bill I asked some questions as to what was included. I mentioned specifically coarse grains, and the minister then suggested that they were under the control of the wheat board, and would not come under this bill.

Mr. GARDINER: No; I said that wheat was not under the bill at all. But I did say that if it were declared by the government that we required floor prices under coarse grains, in all probability the wheat board would be appointed as the commodity board to handle oats and barley—but after decision

[Mr. Perley.]

had been reached under this bill, and they had been appointed the same as any other board must be appointed.

Mr. BRYCE: Will honey and honey products come under the bill?

Mr. GARDINER: It is possible for any agricultural product, with the exception of wheat.

Mr. HATFIELD: Why does not wheat come under the bill?

Mr. GARDINER: Because there is a wheat board act which involves the same principle, and is applied to wheat now.

Mr. GRAYDON: I have no doubt the answer I shall receive from the minister will be in the affirmative, but I ask the question for clarification. I would assume that horticultural products would be included under "agricultural products". When we refer to horticultural products we generally have in mind all garden and orchard crops.

Mr. GARDINER: It is possible for them to be brought under the bill. They are natural products of agriculture.

Mr. GRAYDON: There has always been some question as to whether the broad word "agriculture" does include "horticulture". My view is the same as that held by the minister, namely, that the word "agriculture" can be interpreted to cover the field of horticulture.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): Could we have a more definite statement from the minister with respect to fruits, and certain other agricultural or horticultural products? I have in mind apples, which would be of particular interest to Nova Scotia. In former years prices of strawberries were depressed considerably below the cost of production. What about blueberries, and commodities of that kind? There should be a clear and definite statement from the minister as to whether, under the bill, floor prices will be established to protect the products I have mentioned.

I might refer to peaches as a horticultural product; we should have some statement with respect to them. Some years we have a surplus crop of peaches, and no market for them. The question arises as to whether there will be a guaranteed or protected price on peaches, along with the other commodities I have mentioned.

Mr. GARDINER: The definition is as plain as it can be made. It includes any agricultural product, except wheat. There surely cannot be any doubt about that, because it covers