

THE SENATE

Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

WHEAT BONUSES AND OTHER AID TO AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. TANNER inquired of the Government:

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?

Hon. Mr. KING: These are the answers to my honourable friend's questions:

Department of Agriculture—

1. Under Bill No. 12, an Act respecting Wheat Acreage Reduction: approximately \$20,000,000, if the wheat acreage reduction of 1941 is maintained.

Under Bill No. 13, an Act to Amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935: no information.

Under Bill No. 14, an Act to Amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939: cannot be estimated, as the amount to be paid, if any, depends upon the crop conditions in 1942.

2. No information.

Department of Trade and Commerce—

1. In respect of the amendment of the Canadian Wheat Board Act (Bill No. 13) it is not possible to estimate the probable cost to the country because of unknown factors such as the amount of wheat which will be grown or handled by the Canadian Wheat Board, and the date and price at which the wheat will be sold.

2. No, for the reason given in the answer to No. 1.

Hon. Mr. KING.

THE LATE SENATORS RAINVILLE AND SHARPE

TRIBUTES TO THEIR MEMORY

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. J. H. KING: Honourable senators, it is my painful duty to advise the House that since our last meeting two of our distinguished members have departed this life. I refer to Hon. Senator Rainville, who died on April 14, and Hon. Senator Sharpe, who died on April 19.

Senator Rainville was of French nationality. He practised his profession as an advocate in the city of Montreal. He was interested in military matters, being a lieutenant of the 85th Regiment for about ten years. In the provincial election of 1908 he was a candidate for the Legislature of the province of Quebec, and in 1911 was elected to the House of Commons. In 1917 he was again a candidate for election to the House of Commons, but was not returned. He became Chairman of the Montreal Harbour Commission in 1930, and served until 1932. He was summoned to the Senate in October, 1932.

We all know that Senator Rainville was a regular attendant in this assembly and took a considerable part in our discussions. Having an intimate knowledge of conditions in the harbour of Montreal, he conceived that it would be advantageous not only to that great harbour, but to the people of Canada, that a free port should be established in that locality. He made his representations in this Chamber and succeeded in having a special committee of this House appointed to inquire into the advisability of adopting a policy of free ports in Canada. I was a member of that committee, and I may say that thanks to the efforts of Senator Rainville much valuable information was elicited. Honourable gentlemen who were members of the committee will recall that our discussions were of great interest and that the men who appeared before us gave us an insight into the free ports established elsewhere, particularly in countries of Europe, and showed how well they were serving those countries. Only to-day I was thinking that the trail blazed by the honourable senator is one that we might follow when this war is brought to a successful conclusion and normal trade conditions are re-established throughout the world. His proposal will then be worthy of our consideration.

May I express my deepest sympathy with his relatives and associates in his passing.

The Hon. Senator Sharpe was born in the province of Ontario. He eventually established himself in Manitou, Manitoba, where