

Mr. ROBB: In the absence of my hon. friend from Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Tobin), I moved the resolution just as it appears on the Order Paper.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I hardly like to accept the motion as it is, and I would ask that it stand until to-morrow. I will undertake to get any information that may reasonably be asked for, but I think this is hardly reasonable.

Motion stands.

UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PAPERS.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Antigonish and Guysborough):

For a return showing all the Royal or other commissions to investigate and report on any matter, appointed by the Government since October, 1911, giving the following tabulated particulars in detail:—

(a) Date of Order in Council or other authorization.

(b) Names and post office addresses of commissioner or commissioners.

(c) Purpose for which same was appointed.

(d) Number of days in session.

(e) Outlay on the part of the Government as payment or allowance to the commissioner or commissioners.

(f) All other expenditure for witness fees, travelling expenses, printing, typing and disbursements of every description in the case of each such commission or investigation.

(g) Date of official report.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD.

On motion of Sir George Foster, the House returned to the order of Motions:

Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I believe it was understood that I would make a statement on the third reading of the Bill that passed to-day with reference to the Canadian Wheat Board's extension of powers. I intended to make some explanation in regard to the charge of 15 cents, which has been the subject of some discussion in the House. As the Bill slipped through without my having made that explanation, possibly the House will receive it now. There was another question as to whether wheat, bran and shorts were limited to maximum prices or not. I shall answer the second question first. An agreement exists between the Canadian Wheat Board and the millers. At the time of the first meeting of the board the millers applied for an advance on the price of flour. They urged the increased cost of consumption, and asked for fifteen cents a barrel in advance.

Mr. McKENZIE: What is the date of the first meeting?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The date of the first meeting was about the middle of August.

Mr. McKENZIE: I mean the date at which the millers made that demand?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I understand it was at the first meeting of the Wheat Board. An agreement was made, and still exists, that the price of flour should not be advanced beyond the price which was current at that time. This runs to a maximum of \$10.10 on flour milled from Ontario winter wheat, and \$10.90 on flour milled from Manitoba hard and spring wheat. These prices are free on board track at Montreal, and the prices in other districts are based on the Montreal price, taking into consideration the railway differential. The statement has been made to me that these maximum prices have not in all cases been conserved, and that at the present time flour is being sold, owing to competition amongst millers, at considerably less than the maximum. As to bran and shorts, the prices agreed upon were \$45 and \$55 respectively, and no export was allowed except under permit; and for the major part of the time no export has taken place. Of late, however, the supply of bran and shorts seems to be larger than the demand in Canada, and the Wheat Board are giving permits for a certain amount of export to the United States.

With reference to the charge of 15 cents, this is not a tax, as it has been described in the House, and the reason will be apparent when we take into consideration the purpose of the Wheat Board and the two classes of purchase,—one for export by purchasers, say, in the Old Country, and the other for domestic use by purchasers in Canada. The price was fixed at \$2.15, based on Fort William, and at the end of the transaction the price over and above that which was obtained, after cost and charges had been deducted, was to be divided amongst the principal sellers. So that the farmer gets at once, as regards the basic price, \$2.15 less carrying charges and commissions which are common under all systems of conducting the grain trade. He will receive at the close of the transaction a certain amount, greater or less, from the sum remaining from the total sale of our Canadian wheat at World prices. That portion of the wheat which is sold for domestic use must also bring to the farmer the market price. It does not go across the seas. It is consumed in Canada, and consequently the prices paid by the miller