

Agricultural Products Board

Mr. Charlton: The statement does not answer the question. Surely in the case of furs the minister would not hire a man to go on that board.

Mr. Gardiner: Perhaps one would hire him for a few months.

Mr. Charlton: You could hire a specialist for a month. That would be better than hiring a man to go on the board for the entire year.

Mr. Gardiner: We would have to pay him, whatever the length of time was.

Mr. Charlton: Well, that is an altogether different thing. This subsection says that the governor in council may fix the salaries or other remuneration of members of the board. He would not necessarily be a member of the board. An expert who would be hired to give advice as to the grades of furs, and things of that kind, would not necessarily be a member of the board. But subsection 7 of section 3 says:

Officers, clerks and employees required for the proper conduct of the business of the board shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Act. But the minister may require any officer, clerk or employee on the staff of the Department of Agriculture to serve on the staff of the board without additional remuneration.

The minister has just said that he might have to give them more; and yet in subsection 7 it is made clear that he cannot give them any more. They must work for the salary they are receiving now as civil servants.

Mr. Gardiner: The other remuneration might be only expenses.

Mr. Charlton: Oh, if the minister is going to add to salaries by paying expenses—does he mean under the table?

Mr. Gardiner: No, you do not get anything done under the table around here.

Mr. Charlton: If it is to be by way of expenses, we know that most members of the board and of the Department of Agriculture get travelling expenses now. What other expenses would they have?

Mr. Gardiner: I suggest there is no use of our discussing that question here, because neither of us can settle it. The point that is important here is that authority is given to the governor in council to do something that is absolutely essential.

Mr. Charlton: As I see it, the two subsections are absolutely opposed to each other. One subsection said more cannot be given, while the other subsection says something different.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. Gardiner: No; one deals with officials and the other deals with members of the board, who may not be official. There are other members who think that there ought to be members on the board who are not officials. At the present time I do not think we need any; but if it should develop that we did, it would give us authority to make the appointment.

Mr. Wright: I appreciate that in discussions which take place between the advisory committee and the board there may be certain confidential information given to the board. There may be arguments the government may use to the board that they do not want to have used by the advisory committee. But I am still of the opinion that unless these advisory committees are able to go back to their producers and give a fairly accurate résumé of the discussion which has taken place between them and the various boards they meet, the growers of the particular product an advisory committee represents are not going to be satisfied.

This argument has been brought to my attention often, that an advisory committee is being tied by the discussions in such a way that, because they think what they have been talking about is of a confidential nature, they are not free to come back and give a full report of what the conditions actually are.

I am all for these boards, and for this method of handling our agricultural products; but we want to see it done in such a way that the confidence of the growers can be maintained. The only way they can be operated successfully is to maintain the confidence of the growers in connection with the methods being used. That can be done only when these advisory committees are free to come back and discuss with the producers the arguments used both by the government and by themselves in the presentation of the case to the board.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—*Powers of the board.*

Mr. Charlton: What has the minister in mind in paragraph (e) where it refers to storing, transporting or processing, or entering into contracts for the storing, transportation or processing of agricultural products? Has the minister any idea as to what the board may do in connection with marketing some product that must be processed before it is marketed? Or does he want to have that provision in there only because he might wish to use it some time?

Mr. Gardiner: As has been said, the only product we are handling at the moment is butter. When butter enters Canada it has to