

But in the honourable senator's explanation he referred to 15 bushels for oats and approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ for barley.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: No, fifteen hundred.

Hon. Mr. Stambaugh: In the bill the limitation is to a quota of 6 bushels per specified acre.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The reference is to wheat, and other grains are brought in line with that. If it is necessary for the sake of clarification to make an amendment, it can be made.

Hon. Mr. Stambaugh: Does the honourable senator intend to bring in an amendment to that effect?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: An amendment cannot be moved on the second reading of a bill. Today we are debating the principle of the bill. If its terms are not clear to honourable senators, an appropriate amendment can be made at the proper time.

Hon. Mr. Reid: There are two questions I wish to ask. Is there any real market today for wheat? For instance, if the price were reduced could wheat be sold? Is price blocking sales? That is my first question. My second is, how long can wheat remain on a farm without spoiling; and if spoilage takes place, who will be responsible?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I have had wheat on my farm for seven years and it is still perfectly good. We keep it in dry storage and every year or so we turn it over and let air into it, and then put it back in the building or the bin or the granary or wherever we store it. Under those conditions, grain, particularly wheat, can be kept well year in and year out. It is claimed, in fact, that wheat which for two thousand years had been in the tomb of King "Tut" was taken out and planted, and grew.

Hon. Mr. Reid: At the present time we are paying \$3.75 per bushel for No. 7 wheat. If it were cheaper we would buy more, because there would be more farmers producing poultry.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The honourable senator has reference to British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. Reid: Yes. So I ask, is the price blocking the sale of wheat? Is there a fixed price which operates to prevent sales?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I do not think any more wheat would be sold if the price were reduced.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Well, more could be sold to us.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The reason for the high price to people in British Columbia is the freight rate. No doubt the honourable senator will deal with that point tomorrow when he addresses the house.

Hon. Mr. Golding: Will the honourable senator who is sponsoring the bill inform us what is the carryover in barley and oats, and whether it is normal or is excessive? I am not opposing the bill, but I would like to know what the situation is.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I will obtain that information.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, it will occasion no surprise when you see me rise to talk on the subject of wheat. At various times in the past I have expounded to you my views on the marketing problems which we face in connection with this very important commodity. Before I go on to speak about the bill, however, may I say that I am the culprit to whom the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) referred in his opening remarks when he suggested the reason he wanted to proceed with the second reading tonight was that there was an honourable senator who was going to be absent tomorrow and wanted to have his say before the bill went to committee.

This problem of marketing wheat and other grains is a very serious one. The measure we are considering tonight does not in any way solve that problem; indeed, it makes no contribution at all to solving the important problem of finding markets and making it possible to sell our wheat in those markets at reasonable prices. In a sense this is—what shall I call it?—a relief measure, but I think it is justified.

It might be worth while to sketch briefly the development of the present situation. In 1935, before the general election of that year, the late Lord Bennett introduced into Parliament legislation known as the Canadian Wheat Board Act. It contained compulsory features, but these were suspended by the time the legislation finally emerged from Parliament. This happened after consideration at that time by the Agricultural Committee in the other place, when an understanding was reached whereby the bringing into effect of the compulsory features would be left in abeyance until after the election. The Liberal party, which was in opposition at that time, fought the compulsory features in the legislation.

Well, the Wheat Board came into effect and it was a voluntary board. No farmer was compelled to give his grain to it. He could use it or not as suited himself. That situation continued for several years. In November of 1941 the Wartime Prices and Trade