

printed. I think the words "other than wheat" should have been put in brackets, and in that way we would have gained the proper impression.

Mr. GARDINER: If the comma is taken out it will be satisfactory.

Mr. HAYHURST: Yes, or if "other than wheat" is put in brackets.

I should certainly like to see developments in cooperative enterprise instead of in the bill. We must remember that most Canadian farmers are in a very difficult situation. They need support. It does not matter whether they are in the back concessions of Quebec or in my own constituency; they are worthy of such support. People living on the farms and doing the best they can are the back-bone of the country, and if we are not prepared to help them the country will naturally go to the dogs. But we are prepared to help those people, and hon. members in this corner of the house are prepared to cooperate with this or any other government for the welfare of the people of all of Canada.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—Definition.

Mr. NEILL: When I asked the minister on second reading why this measure did not include natural products as defined by the bill of 1934 he referred me to the Minister of Fisheries who, he said, was introducing a bill dealing with the matter. I would point out, however, that that bill is only in the resolution stage, and has been that way for ten days. If we are going to prorogue a week from to-morrow there is small chance of having it passed. Anyway, it deals only with salt fish and the export of salt fish. What I am referring to is the Natural Products Marketing Act assented to in 1934, which covered the products of agriculture, and of the forests, seas, lakes or rivers. I believe it is in order to ask why, if we are going into this system of cooperative marketing—and some people think it is desirable; I think it is—it should be confined only to agriculture.

Mr. GARDINER: The main reason, so far as fisheries are concerned, is the one I indicated when answering the hon. member previously. As the resolution indicates, a bill to deal with salt fish is being brought down. At the time the bill now before the committee was being drafted I did not have full information as to what the intention was in connection with that particular legislation. I should

think, however, that the proper place to add fish, other than salt fish, would be in that rather than in this legislation, because this has to do with farm products.

Then, so far as products of the forests are concerned, I understand there was a great deal of controversy at the time the Natural Products Marketing Act was discussed as to where the division should be made with respect to products of the forest. There was the question whether lumber of certain types, shingles and that sort of thing, should be included. We thought in drafting this bill that at this stage at least it was better to confine it to agricultural products, and to try it out experimentally for a year. If a year hence it is thought advisable to add other products I do not think there would be any serious objection, but at this time I think it would be best to try it out on agricultural products alone.

Mr. HARRIS: What other products has the minister in mind which might possibly be included? I was surprised to hear the minister mention lumber, because it is far removed from wheat. Many other products would come in between the categories of agricultural products and lumber.

Mr. GARDINER: As at present drafted, the bill is presumed to cover all agricultural products. The suggestion just made was that we should take in other products, other than those of the farm, namely that we should take in fish and products of the forests. I am just saying I do not think it is advisable in this bill, which is more or less of an experiment to try to promote cooperative marketing in connection with farm products, to include, in the present year, other natural products.

Mr. HARRIS: Perhaps the minister would give some idea of the degree of relativity, if I may use that term, of farm products. Which of the farm products would be put in the first category, and so on, down the line, which require attention at this time.

Mr. GARDINER: There is no intention of placing them in categories in that way. That is, if for example the cheese makers were to come along and ask us, the day after this legislation becomes effective, to interest ourselves in the formation of cooperatives in the cheese industry, that is where we would begin our activity. If it happened to be producers of grass seeds of various kinds we would be prepared immediately to become active in the formation of organizations relating to that branch of agriculture.