

*Canada Grain Act*

During the past few months the directors of the Soybeans Grower's Marketing Board, who are elected representatives of the Soybean growers of Essex, Kent, Pelee Island, Lambton, Huron, Elgin and Middlesex counties, have given considerable study to the sale and handling of soybeans and other cash crops in western Ontario.

Increased production and higher prices received for soybeans, corn, wheat and pea beans has greatly increased the value of these crops to farmers. There are at present no regulations governing the handling, sale, storage and transportation of these products by country elevators, track loaders, and truckers, in western Ontario. Nor is financial responsibility required of them. A producer sells his grain or beans on a grade and moisture basis, but must accept the grade and moisture given him by the purchaser. He has no recourse to an injustice except through courts of law.

In seeking the means to give more protection to the producer a study has been made of the licensing and bonding of country elevators in western Canada under the Canada Grain Act.

The directors are impressed with the protection given the western producer under the act by regulations governing the sale, and transportation of grain in western Canada, and by the efficient administration of the act by the board of grain commissioners for Canada.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the board of directors of the Ontario Soybeans Growers' Marketing Board held in Chatham, Ontario, April 15, 1950.

"That the board of directors of the Ontario Soybeans Growers' Marketing Board is of the unanimous opinion that the sale, storage and transportation of grain grown in western Ontario for which grades are established in schedule 2 of the Canada Grain Act, could be better regulated by the licensing and bonding of country elevators and dealers in Ontario, buying grain under the Canada Grain Act, than is now the case.

That the board of grain commissioners for Canada be requested to consider revision of the act, necessary to its application to western Ontario, for the purpose of giving protection to producers by:

1. Insurance of the proper conduct of the business in accordance with provisions of the act and regulations and to guarantee the farmers from loss through mismanagement or dishonesty of the operator.
2. Provision for sale by the farmer of his grain for cash on a grade agreed upon with the operator, or to have the right to demand that sale be made subject to inspector's grade and dockage.
3. The inspection of scales, equipment, records and returns of licensees.
4. Requiring a licensee to keep a complete record of his transactions and make reports to the board as required.
5. Approving the form of tickets and receipts that shall be issued to the producer on the sale or storage of his grain."

This brief respectfully submitted to the board of grain commissioners for their consideration and direction. The directors are of the opinion that it is of vital importance that the producer be protected in the sale and handling of his grain.

This is signed by the president and the secretary of the association.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** What did they say about the dairy farmer?

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** We are not discussing the dairy farmer at the moment.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** We are discussing marketing.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** I discussed this matter with some of the officials, and it just so happened that the flood at Winnipeg was at its height and it was difficult to make contact with Mr. Mackenzie at the time. Then the minister and Mr. Mackenzie went to Britain, and so we have not been able to get as far advanced with this as I had hoped at this particular time. It is because of that situation that I took these few minutes to explain to the minister and to the house what the aims and hopes of the growers in south-western Ontario are.

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

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—*Publication.*

**Mr. Wright:** This is the clause under which the board makes regulations with respect to the tariffs that may be charged in country elevators or in terminal elevators. I wanted to bring one matter to the minister's attention with regard to the tariffs which are in force at the present time. That is the matter of the diversion charges on grain going to the port of Churchill. These diversion charges are, I believe, from one and a half cents to two cents a bushel; and they are charged by elevator companies who have control of the grain of any shipper when that shipper wishes to have that grain diverted to other than the terminal elevator either owned or controlled by the company shipping the grain. In that case a diversion charge is made.

At the port of Churchill there is only one elevator. That is a government-controlled or government-owned elevator, or an elevator operated by the government. Therefore that grain going to the port of Churchill must pay this diversion charge. On the other hand, grain shipped to Port Arthur-Fort William or to Vancouver seldom carries a diversion charge, the result being that most of the elevator companies either own or have leased elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William; so normally the grain handled by those companies goes direct to their own controlled elevators and there is no diversion charge. This results in a discrimination against grain going to the port of Churchill and results in an additional charge of one and a half cents on all grain being shipped to that port.

I should like to ask the minister if he would bring this matter to the attention of the board of grain commissioners. I feel that if