

Trade Agreement with Spain

assured from time to time under the regulations as they existed. We have stated that we object to this principle being written into our law, and since the government is prepared to review the matter at the end of three years, and since we all hope that the circumstances which they feel justify the enactment in the first place may not continue forever, I would hope they would accept the amendment limiting its operation to one year.

Amendment (Mr. Fulton) negatived: Yeas, 37; nays, 51.

The Deputy Chairman: I declare the amendment lost. Shall clause 2 carry?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, would you put the motion on clause 2 because this is the clause which incorporates section 34?

Clause 2 agreed to on division.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported on division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read a third time?

Mr. Fulton: Tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next sitting of this house.

TRADE**TABLING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND SPAIN**

Mr. Roch Pinard (Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, by leave of the house I would ask to revert to motions for a moment. I should like to table on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Has the hon. gentleman leave to revert to motions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pinard:—three copies in French and in English of the trade agreement signed at Madrid on May 26, 1954, between Canada and Spain.

SUPPLY

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

WHEAT—MARKETING OF SURPLUS

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I now propose to avail myself of this motion in order to raise

[Mr. Fulton.]

a question which came before the house yesterday and which it is now possible to discuss in a manner that was not considered appropriate at that time under the rules. I refer to the situation with which we are confronted in connection with the marketing of the large surplus of wheat which we now have on hand. I do so with particular reference to the announcement made the night before last that the price of Canadian No. 1 hard wheat had been reduced 10½ cents. That is the largest reduction that has been made in many years in the price of Canadian wheat.

I do not propose to go into detail about the number of bushels on hand or the fact that we have the largest surplus ever stored on the farms of western Canada because those facts have all been discussed on various occasions. Every hon. member who has kept in touch with this situation in any way is fully aware of the fact that for various reasons our elevators are full, our general storage capacity is occupied and that grain is stored in unprecedented quantities on the farms in western Canada.

The announcement made the day before yesterday of this large reduction in the price of wheat, varying according to the various grades, is one that is of great importance, not only to the wheat farmers of western Canada and the wheat farmers in other parts of Canada but also to every Canadian. That announcement lopped off many millions of dollars in immediate value of accumulated wheat, a fact which means a direct loss to the farmers themselves. That loss, in turn, is something which has its impact upon the retailers, the wholesalers, the railways, the producers in eastern Canada and, generally, upon our whole economy.

Without going into many of the arguments that might be presented as to the reasons for the situation with which we are now confronted, may I say I think it must be realized that the most urgent thing required at this time is a clear declaration of policy by the government so that the farmers, those handling grain, the railways, the shippers generally and the ship owners who will be called upon to carry the grain to distant points may know what to expect during the coming weeks and months.

Although the situation had been generally known, it came as a surprise to many Canadians to learn a few months ago that at the beginning of this year none of the 1953 wheat crop had been sold and that there had been a carry-over of a large quantity of the 1952 crop. Today we are within less than two months of the opening of a new crop year.