

If they are, we shall then be able to consider their application to the principle of the amendment. The statement reads:

In the Act as consolidated in 1930 the mixing of grain was prohibited in grades No. 1 Hard, No. 1 Northern, No. 2 Northern and No. 3 Northern at the terminal elevators, and the out-turn standard was raised above the incoming standard. The stipulation was that no grain other than grain of the same grade could be binned with any of the top four grades.

Nothing, however, was placed in the Act in regard to moisture content. This had always been handled by the board under regulation, and never shown in the schedules of grades. The Act of 1930 was therefore open as to moisture content: it did not say that No. 1 Northern 14 per cent moisture and No. 1 Northern 16 per cent moisture could not be binned together.

The Board of Grain Commissioners on the advice of their own chemists, of mill chemists, of the National Research Council, the Associate Council on Grain Research, and a great number of practical grain men, decided to allow tough grain of the grade to be binned with the straight grade for the purpose of drying the tough grain.

Now that the Act is being amended the board have asked to have this practice legalized which has been carried on for ten years by permission of the board in the absence of direction under the Act.

The practical side of this proposition is this: if tough grain must be artificially dried it costs five cents per bushel and the grain will probably lose a grade; in other words, the farmer gets from 8 to 10 cents per bushel less for it. By allowing the drying of tough wheat by binning it with the straight grades of the same grade, i.e. No. 1 tough with No. 1 Northern; No. 2 tough with No. 2 Northern; No. 3 tough with No. 3 Northern, the spread in price in between the toughs and the straight grades has narrowed to from 2½ cents per bushel to 1½ cents per bushel, whereas it used to be 8 to 10 cents.

Straight grade grain must contain in moisture not more than 14.4 per cent; tough, 14.4 to 17 per cent; damp, 17 per cent up. This section of the Act only covers the tough wheat; damp must be dried artificially.

Evidence before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons by Mr. Hamilton of the Board of Grain Commissioners, and by Mr. R. H. Milliken, representing the three Western wheat pools, was to the effect that there was no complaint whatever in regard to this practice from United Kingdom buyers or continental buyers; that the only complaint was that some Garnet wheat had been allowed into No. 3 Northern, which was detrimental. This placing of Garnet in No. 3 Northern has been stopped by the board. Both these men stated that in both the United Kingdom and on the continent the opinion of all was that Canada's grain was of the finest quality and superior to all others.

Australian wheat has a moisture content of 8, 9 and 10 per cent, but does not command as high a price as Canadian wheat which has a moisture content of 11, 12, 13 and 14 per cent.

I conclude from this memorandum that the practice established by the Board of Grain Commissioners has been beneficial to farmers of the West. Since 1930 or 1931, when the regulation was made, farmers who have had

tough grain on their hands have been able to take advantage of the regulation and get a higher price. That being the case, it seems to me that if we rejected the amendment the Board of Grain Commissioners would feel that the practice should not be continued and would cancel the regulation.

Hon. W. M. ASELTINE: In spite of what has been said by our two leaders, I fear this clause will open the door to indiscriminate mixing.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It touches only one grade.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: In that connection I would say that I know several prominent farmers from Western Canada who have visited the Old Country and brought back samples of wheat which had been sold there as No. 1 Northern. When those samples were taken to the elevators back in Saskatchewan, the operator said that such wheat would grade a poor No. 3. This shows that in spite of our regulations something is going on with regard to mixing which we know nothing about. The grading is so stiff that it is difficult to get No. 1, but apparently the wheat which we sell at the elevators in the West as No. 1 is mixed with other wheat before it is sold in the Old Country, and the mixture would be regarded here as only No. 3 grade. For that reason I fear that if we allow this section to pass, we shall be asked next session to extend the privilege of mixing until the door is thrown wide open.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: Does the honourable senator think the wheat pools would support this amendment if harmful to the farmer?

Hon. Mr. HORNER: The large terminal elevators at Buffalo and Fort William would like the amendment. They would be able to make money by taking advantage of the section.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: I do not think we should go contrary to the interests of Western Canada.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand Mr. Milliken represented the three Western wheat pools.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: The statement which the honourable leader of the Government has just read, that the farmer might lose a grade if he had his wheat dried, proves my argument that the tough grain you dry with your dry grain is not the quality of the original dry grain, and you lower the quality of your No. 1 Hard wheat.