

*Cold Storage Act*

to help out private individuals, municipal corporations, public bodies or others, for the public good, it should have absolute control over the general working out of that scheme. Unless this government is amply aware of the fact that it has the power to make regulations which will give it control over such bodies, I am afraid I am one of those who will be obliged to vote against the resolution of the Minister of Agriculture. We must not be hampered by laws as to jurisdiction; we must not be hampered in respect to technicalities. I think I know one way of getting over the legal technicality suggested by Mr. Newcombe, and that is to introduce a new bill to amend the Cold Storage Act. Instead of making regulations which may or may not have the force of law, this parliament has ample and plenary jurisdiction to pass an amendment to the Cold Storage Act to preserve the rights of this government, this parliament and this country in the matter of cold storage. I would suggest to the minister that he should ask the law officers of his department or the law officers of the Justice department what their opinion is regarding my suggestion, because we, as legislators here, should realize to the full that the time has come when, if we are going to distribute public moneys over this country, we should have a great deal to say as to the purposes for which they are to be expended, and the regulations under which they are to be expended.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The point brought up by my hon. friend (Mr. Carroll) is a very important one. Shortly after I came down here, I took this matter up with the Deputy Minister of Justice. I had been familiar, in a general way, with the limitations of the federal laws with respect to matters of trade in provinces and similar matters, but I was not sufficiently familiar with them to have any opinion worth while on the subject. In discussing the question of making amendments to the Cold Storage Act, we very soon ran up against the limitation to which the hon. member refers. Since then, on further consultation with the Deputy Minister of Justice, we think we have discovered a solution. I was not intending to discuss it and I do not think I should discuss it here, because the matter is still in a tentative state. I think it will work out. It is along the line of supplementary legislation on the part of the provinces. That is, one way of getting over the difficulty is that to the extent that we have not authority, they, if they are willing, delegate to us that authority. The

[Mr. Carroll.]

solution is not sufficiently advanced to discuss it any further just now than to say that I have the matter in mind, and I hope, before any cold storage institutions are established and are eligible to draw any subsidies, the solution will be at hand. We shall have to act on faith in the meantime. I think we should get the advantages of these subsidies; I think corporate institutions require to be built, not only in the dairy industry, but even more in the fruit industry, for example, in the Annapolis valley and in British Columbia. If we find that we cannot control these institutions—but I think we can—we can consider some subsequent action to take. I think, after that statement, I may hope for the support of my hon. friend. I recognize the limitations that the law had before, and I can see the absurdity of subsidizing an institution, if after the last instalment is paid, you have not full control. We hope that we have found a solution that will meet the situation; otherwise I would not be unfolding this proposition to the House to-day. As my hon. friend (Mr. Sales) knows, we have had some experience with these matters, and fortunate, too, notwithstanding the limitations. But we were working from the provincial standpoint then; now we are dealing with the matter federally. In reply to my hon. friend from Weyburn (Mr. Morrison), I might explain that when we started to prepare the bill we had the alternative of either a loan or a subsidy. Now, it is not considered quite the thing for a new minister to upset the work of his predecessor to too great an extent at the beginning, and as a compromise with that idea I at first thought of giving assistance in the shape of 15 per cent of a loan and an equal amount by way of subsidy, the loan of course returnable, the subsidy not. However, on more mature consideration I thought it best to re-introduce the matter in the same old way, and as time went on we could make any necessary changes. Personally, I do not like the idea of the federal government going into the loaning business; and if we were to give a loan I should have to consult the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who I am sure would be obliged to weigh the matter very carefully. On the other hand, the subsidy basis was established away back in 1907, and we thought it would be best just to make the old act begin to function again. That, no doubt, was taking the line of least resistance, but I think that in that direction we may hope for the best results in the immediate future. As time goes on modifications can be introduced. I am ready to modify the act now and accept