

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 13, 1964

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

FARM MACHINERY SYNDICATES CREDIT BILL

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-121, to provide for the extension of credit to farm machinery syndicates.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. John J. Connolly, with leave of the Senate, moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, since the Senate has not assembled for about a month I wish, first of all, to express my personal pleasure at seeing so many of my colleagues again in Ottawa.

I think I should not go further without saying how delighted everyone was with the reception which was held yesterday for Her Majesty, who once more honoured our capital with her presence, and how delighted I personally was to see so many honourable senators in Ottawa for the occasion of the royal visit. I am sure all of us felt that it was indeed a genuine day of thanksgiving in Canada and for that reason it was another great Canadian occasion.

I can also express some gratification at the fact that the Senate was, about a month ago, directed to reassemble here on the evening of Tuesday, October 13, at 8 o'clock, and further that we have a bill to consider. Once more we have landed on our feet; and, as Mr. Speaker will indicate a little later, we have another bill to be introduced here tonight.

Therefore, the Senate will have some work to do this week in the chamber. In addition, there will be a good deal of work to be done by various of the standing committees of the Senate.

Honourable senators, with those preliminary and completely out of order remarks, I now come to the subject matter of our business this evening, the consideration of Bill C-121, intituled an Act to provide for the extension of credit to farm machinery syndicates.

I need not tell honourable senators that this is the third measure this session dealing

with the provision of credit for the agricultural community of Canada. In June the Senate considered and passed a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act. That bill dealt primarily with the work of the Farm Credit Corporation, and in particular with long-term credit for farmers, credit that is given on the security of real estate and of equipment. There is no need to thresh old straw over that bill, because it was debated fully at that time.

In September, when we last met, the Senate dealt with an act respecting the Farm Improvement Loans Act, which also was a measure designed to provide credit for the agricultural community. The machinery for that legislation works through the banks. It is designed to provide intermediate term credit to enable farmers to purchase machinery and livestock and to make improvements to buildings. Honourable senators will remember that the rate of interest provided for in that legislation, which the banks of the country have done so much to implement, is five per cent.

All of these measures, and the measure that we have before us this evening, are designed to assist the agricultural community in the production of foodstuffs. This has been a traditional and a very important element of the Canadian economy since Canada first existed. However, the age of automation has reached the farms, and is upon the farmers just as much as it is upon the industrial community of this country.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: May I interrupt the honourable leader to ask if copies of this bill could be distributed? Some of my colleagues are anxious to have a copy before them.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I understood that copies had been distributed to honourable senators. Certainly, the bill has been available now for some days.

I was saying that the development of farm machinery and equipment has revolutionized the farming industry of this country; and the development and improvement of farm equipment has involved a saving of labour for the farmer, an increased efficiency in the way in which the farm is operated, and it can mean a lowering of the cost of the farmer's product. It can thus ensure competitiveness of his prices and I think, properly used, this kind of machinery and equipment to which I am referring means better living conditions on the farm and higher standards of living for farmers. In other words mechanization is now pretty well the way of life with the farmer, as it is with most other people in our society. Mechanization spells progress, but also it can and does spell greater expense. This is true not only on the larger farm