

help the farmers of this country. I am thinking particularly of those in British Columbia and in eastern Canada. The co-operation of all hon. members in this regard would be much appreciated.

Mr. Argue: On this procedural question, this request by the minister that the resolution be passed by five o'clock, would the hon. gentleman agree that should this be done the bill might be sent after second reading to the committee on agriculture and colonization where all the aspects of this question could be considered and where any comments which hon. members might wish to make at this stage could be made to some advantage?

Mr. Hamilton: I have heard that suggestion, and I would like to consider it objectively. I should like to make a counter-proposal. I would welcome the bringing of officials of the Farm Credit Corporation before the committee on agriculture but I suggest that could be done more advantageously at the regular time. We could call the committee together then and have this farm credit legislation reviewed by the members of that committee but, in the meantime let us get this legislation through. I have a good reason for getting certain amendments made so that I can operate this measure in the fall in eastern Canada. This would not affect the right of hon. members to ask questions, make suggestions and go over the whole operation.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, if I may say a word—

The Chairman: Order. I see the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

Mr. Argue: I point out that the reply which could be made now was not allowed. I point out that after the minister made that suggestion a member of this party was not allowed to reply to it.

The Chairman: I will hear the hon. member for Assiniboia. I trust he intends to be brief.

Mr. Argue: There is one big flaw in the suggestion made by the Minister of Agriculture. We do not want a school for the edification of members of this house with regard to the legislation now before the committee. We want the bill brought before the committee so that we can make necessary changes. That is far better than passing the legislation and then being told: come on, now the act is on the statute books we will merely discuss it with you.

Mr. Chatterton: I had intended to speak on this resolution, but in view of the request just made by the minister I will defer my remarks to another occasion. I know many

Minimum Wage Rates for Employees

farmers in my area are anxious to get the benefit of these amendments and, as I say, I will therefore defer my remarks trusting we will get this resolution through.

(Translation):

Mr. Dumont: Mr. Chairman, all we have to say, from this side of the house, is: let us have farm credit while waiting for Social Credit. I thank you.

(Text):

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Argue: No.

An hon. Member: The farmers' friend.

Mr. Argue: I am very pleased not to let it go through now.

Progress reported.

Mr. Speaker: It being now five o'clock the house will proceed to the consideration of private members' business—public bills and private bills.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

PROVISION OF MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-10, to provide for minimum wages for employees in federal works, undertakings and businesses.

He said: This is a bill the principle of which should commend itself so readily to all hon. members that debate should be very brief. I will endeavour to set a pattern of brevity in the hope that this measure, at least as far as second reading is concerned, may receive the approval of the house during this hour.

At this point I wish to say that if that happens, and I hope it will, I will not ask for the bill to be referred to the committee of the whole house but rather I will ask for it to be referred to the committee on industrial relations so that its many details might be studied. In other words I do not ask the house to accept all of the details and all of the machinery contained in Bill No. C-10 as the only way of carrying out the principle. However, I ask the house to support the principle. I submit that the time has come for an act to be placed on the federal statute books establishing a minimum wage for all workers who come under federal labour jurisdiction. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, it seems strange that, in this year 1962, there is still no such legislation on our statute books.

In 1935 Mr. Bennett tried to put minimum wage legislation on the federal statute books but the bill which Mr. Bennett brought in at that time was later ruled by the courts to be ultra vires of the powers of the federal