

*Inspection of Seeds*

of grass and clover seeds are being imported into the western provinces the purchasers should be protected against the possibility of those seeds containing weeds which, for example, although noxious there, may not be noxious in the place where the seed was grown. I think the term should be thoroughly understood and defined before it is used.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think the list is quite complete. There are certain weeds that are very prevalent. For instance, wild buckwheat is very prevalent but is not considered to be a very noxious weed except in some places where it has proven to be so. If you include the whole list of noxious weeds the lists might be made very burdensome. The word "primary," I presume, has reference to the list given in the act. It is possible that some weeds may have to be added to the list when the new regulations, under the new act, are drafted. I have the list given in the old act if my hon. friend would like it read. It is as follows:

Cow cockle, stinkweed, false flax, ball mustard, wild radish, wild mustard, hare's-ear mustard, tumbling mustard, wild carrot, field bindweed, dodder, blue burr or stickseed, blue weed, ribgrass, ragweed, ox-eye daisy, Canada thistle, perennial sow thistle.

Mr. MARTELL: What is the method to be pursued by farmers in the province of Nova Scotia, particularly in the most important part of the province, the county of Hants, if they wish to get some seeds for new varieties of oats, or other seed, for the purpose of experimentation? From the experiments it carries on, the Department of Agriculture would undoubtedly know the best seeds to be used in certain sections of Nova Scotia. Having ascertained that fact, what would the farmer have to do in order to get some new samples of seed?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It depends whether he wanted to deal with a regular recognized seed merchant—

Mr. MARTELL: He would want to get them for nothing.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not think we have any such method, except by getting small samples from the experimental farm.

Mr. MARTELL: I think the minister stated that if certain progressive farmers would apply to the experimental farm they would get samples.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The season is pretty well advanced for distributing samples of seed. A certain distribution is being made yet, although not so prodigal as that of a number

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

of years ago. It was thought there was a good deal of waste in the general distribution of these small five-pound samples of seed. The quantity distributed has been reduced, and distributed early enough so that it will be ready for seeding in the spring. It is rather late now.

Mr. MARTELL: Can the hon. minister tell me how I would get it? The season is not very far advanced in Nova Scotia.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand the season is late there this year. They have a supply still on hand at the experimental farm at Ottawa, and if my hon. friend will send an application to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, I have no doubt they would strain a point for my hon. friend, even if it is a little late.

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince, P.E.I.): When this bill was up before the committee on Agriculture, the question regarding the taking over of inspection of seed potatoes for shipment to the American markets was discussed, and we from the Maritime provinces were disappointed that the inspection of seed potatoes was not taken over by the Seed branch. We found it impossible in this committee to have the inspection taken over by the Seed branch. I just wish to ask the minister if he has given further consideration to this matter, and if he has not received numerous communications from the potato growers association in the Maritime provinces asking for this. They believed they could get better inspection and they would have the men right on the spot the whole year round, or on the days the potatoes were shipped out, and it would be a far better method than the present system where the plant pathologists are only there for part of the season. They are very anxious for this to be taken care of by the Seed branch under Mr. Clark, and I hope the minister will still give it favourable consideration.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Officials of the Department of Agriculture have gone into this matter very carefully, and inasmuch as it will require additional plant pathologists to perform these services under the Seed branch, it would be more expensive to carry out my hon. friend's suggestion. At the present time seed potatoes are under the department of the plant pathologists, as it requires the services of a pathologist to identify potato diseases. It does not require such an officer to take care of the Seed branch, because if the potatoes were transferred to the Seed branch we would have to take on a new staff of