

and if the honourable the acting leader would give us the latest returns he has.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Honourable gentlemen, this House is non-partisan, as we have been told, and, not being personally interested in elections, I have no official notice of what occurred in Saskatchewan.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, June 10, at 3 p.m.

## THE SENATE

Monday, June 10, 1929.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### CANADA GRAIN BILL

#### FIRST READING

Bill 359, an Act to amend the Canada Grain Act.—Right Hon. Mr. Graham.

#### SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, the text of this Grain Bill may be somewhat new to us, but we are more or less conversant with the discussion on the subject. A commission of inquiry, known as the Brown Commission, was appointed some time ago, heard evidence and brought in a report. That report was referred to the Agricultural Committee in another place, which in turn placed the matter in the hands of a sub-committee, and after the smaller body had made its findings the report of the full Committee was presented to the other House.

The Bill, which in its present form has been approved unanimously in another place, purports to deal with only the high spots of grain legislation. The intention is to consolidate the Grain Act and probably introduce several additional amendments at the next Session. These high spots are the abolition of grain mixing in grades 1, 2, and 3, an out-turn standard of 75 per cent of the average of the grade, with 25 per cent of the minimum, and a provision allowing any producer of grain to ship his product to any terminal elevator that he selects. The Bill provides also that in addition to the three Grain Commissioners there shall be four assistants, who are to be stationed in different parts of Canada so that they may be on the ground to give decisions when required. These are the chief points of this legislation.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.

I have been waited on by representatives of, I think, all the classes interested, and as they are unanimously in favour of the Bill as now before us, I do not think we can do better than pass it.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable gentlemen, it is always a pleasure to me to find myself in accord with the leader of the Government. This has frequently been the case during the present session, which certainly has not been a contentious one. On this Bill I am again in accord with my right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Graham).

Without arrogating to myself any special authority, I may claim that, coming as I do from the greatest grain-growing province in Canada, I have a fair first-hand knowledge of the needs and desires of the farmers of the West in regard to the operation of the Grain Act. I venture to say that the great mass of the farmers, whether members of the pool or not, are in favour of a change in the grading. I am equally satisfied that they are opposed to mixing—to perhaps a greater degree than to anything else dealt with in the Act. The prohibition of mixing will not come into effect for a year. It has been contended by the grain trade that in the operation of the terminal elevators and in the spouting of grain into the boats some technical readjustments will be necessary in order to meet the new conditions brought about by this prohibition. As to that I do not profess to have any technical knowledge, but it is quite obvious that the sponsors of the Bill have tried to play fairly with the grain trade and to give them an opportunity to prepare for the fate that is going to befall them, for I have no doubt that next session mixing will be absolutely abolished.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: May I be permitted to interrupt the honourable gentleman? I omitted to say that the abolition of mixing in grades 1, 2, and 3 will not come into operation until August, 1930.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: That is what I am referring to. The provision as to mixing is not to become operative this year, and it applies only to the higher grades. The other provision—the standard of 75 per cent of the average with 25 per cent of the minimum of the grade, with the possibility that it may be extended to grades below No. 3—is a new departure, and it is hoped that it will be beneficial to the farmer. It has been contended in this House, as well as throughout the grain-growing sections of Canada, that there is a tendency to skim the grade to the absolute minimum. I have met gentlemen