

### Feed Grains

House at an earlier date and allowed it to be discussed in the Standing Committee on Agriculture, so that those on the various sides of the matter could meet face to face and discuss the issue facing the Canadian farmers. The minister has failed miserably to do that.

This brings up the question of who wants this change made to the present method. I would say the answer to this lies in statements made by the Quebec government, the Coop Federee, and the Canada Grains Council which has also made its position known. Others seeking the change are the private trade in the Winnipeg commodity exchange, and some large scale feeders in western Canada.

It is ironic that at the same time as the Quebec government seeks to break down the pricing policy of the Canadian Wheat Board it opposes lower freight rates on rapeseed meal and oil going to Montreal. It is a matter of record, Mr. Speaker, that the only crushing plant in Montreal, Canlin Ltd., opposed the application of the western oil seed crushing plants for more equitable freight rates on shipments of oil cake meal to Montreal. So did the Quebec government.

Is the Quebec government really interested in providing lower feed costs for Quebec farmers? If it is interested in lower feed costs, why does it oppose the movement of oil cake meal at lower cost into the province of Quebec?

If the present control of the Canadian Wheat Board is going to be weakened, we must ask ourselves who wants this change and who will benefit. It will certainly not be the farmers. I have been surprised that no one question has been asked by maritime members about what the minister proposes to do with respect to feed grains. Maritime Co-operative Services has been and is one of the most efficient feed distributors in Canada. Yet I have not heard it asking for this kind of change. I have not heard one member from Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island rise in this House and ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board why these changes should be made.

I wish one could get into the board rooms and ask the various directors how much enthusiasm they have for returning to the open market system, where they have to buy futures in the fall to assure themselves of supplies in December. I doubt that there is much enthusiasm for that.

Some years ago I sat in the offices of the officials of Coop Federee in the city of Montreal and they were not then enthusiastic about the open market, which the present commodity exchange in Winnipeg envisages as the method of supplying feed grains for the Quebec farmers. Yet what other method is the minister proposing?

There are two methods that can be used to move and price grain on a national basis. One is by using the Canadian Wheat Board; the other is by using the commodity market in which we buy futures. It is about time that some of the people who will be buying feed grains asked how the latter system can serve them.

I ask, how well will it serve the farmers in the Peace River district, who have a system of moving their grain down from Dawson Creek and Fort St. John to the lower mainland under special provisions granted them by the Canadian Wheat Board? How will their interests be served when a different method is in operation?

[Mr. Gleave.]

Some time this evening the minister may say, "This is not what we are going to do; we are going to do something else." If he does, Mr. Speaker, then my motion will have been a success. Its effect will not have been lost. I can only assume that those in charge of marketing feed grains in Canada are going to use one of those two methods that are well known and that have been used for the marketing of feed grain. Surely they are not going to suggest to this House, and to the farmers, that we go back to the treaty method, where a buyer went from yard to yard with a truck and asked each farmer, "Will you take 70 cents, 75 cents, or 80 cents today?" Surely no one is going to suggest that to the purchasers and producers of feed grains in the year 1973.

Those ministers in charge of marketing feed grains have not said what they are going to do. This is where they have completely failed to serve western and eastern farmers. We are both customers of one another. We both serve one another. If we do not, we will not operate efficiently.

If the ministers opposite are so concerned about the fate of farmers in eastern Canada, why didn't they do something about the price of soybean oil which has moved in a very short period of time from \$100 a ton to over \$400 a ton? Neither of them suggested that we should change the method of pricing and marketing soybean oil. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) said he was going to control the whole thing, but nobody knows what he is using. He has never told this House what effect his actions have had or are going to have on the price of soybean meal. He has never said that because I do not think he knows. I do not think he has a clue.

• (2020)

This, Mr. Speaker, is the sort of nonsense that goes on. At the same time we have a representative of the Alberta government submitting a bill to the Canadian Wheat Board for some \$13 million. These are the sort of things that can destroy a marketing system, not build it.

Has the Quebec farmer been used so badly? The total of cattle has gone from 1,895,000 in 1969 to 1,587,000 in 1972; the total of pigs has gone from 1,115,000 to 1,195,000 in this year. I do not see the livestock industry in Quebec disappearing under the onslaught of the western feed grain producer.

The Canadian Wheat Board has assured supplies at a time when the Quebec farmer would not have had a supply if the Canadian Wheat Board had not existed. If the Canadian Wheat Board had not been there, the eastern feeder would be in the same shape as he is in regard to soy bean meal. The supply of meal is not there. The Canadian Wheat Board has been supplying barley at a price lower than the export price into the eastern markets in these last few months. The thanks we get for that kind of policy which has served the Maritimes, which has served Quebec, which has served British Columbia, is a threat to dismantle the marketing machinery which the farmer of western Canada has put together over the years.

I will say this: if the members of this House or the government imagine that we will sit quietly by while this happens, then they are badly mistaken. I hope, maybe against all reason, knowing the record of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, that some time this evening he