

year, no matter what the price of wheat may be, provided that certain districts are found to have a crop not large enough to sustain the farmers interested.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? If the Bill is given second reading, is it his intention to have it sent to committee?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: I had thought of having this Bill referred to the Committee on Agriculture, or of suggesting that all these Bills should go to committees.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: If you please, honourable senators, this Bill can go to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. I think the Acreage Reduction Bill should go to the Committee on Agriculture. I shall be guided entirely by what this honourable body thinks. If the Bills were sent to different committees the work would be divided up to some extent.

The Bill increasing the price of wheat by 10 cents, being a trade and commerce Bill, should probably go to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce. I do not know whether that Bill will reach us to-morrow. There is hope that it will.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: Does this Bill apply to all of Canada?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: No; to the Prairies.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: What are the Prairies?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The places where the wheat is grown.

Hon. CREELMAN MacARTHUR: This wheat question is a hardy annual. We have had it before us year after year, and year after year the Western farmers have received bonuses and help from the Government, which assistance is entirely absent from the Maritime Provinces. We in the Maritimes have potato problems, but the Government never gives any consideration to helping us by means of a ceiling, pegged prices or anything else of that kind. I am getting sick and tired of hearing of wheat, wheat, wheat every year, and of the Government giving bonuses of 30, 40 or 50 cents to help the Western farmer. Our Maritime farmers are struggling. They are losing money. Prices are low, and the farmers are discouraged. I think the Minister of Agriculture should consider the Maritimes, particularly Prince Edward Island, which is the best potato-growing country in the Dominion, to see if something cannot be done to get the farmers a reasonable price for their products. We are being taxed for wheat every year, but we are

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not going to stand for it for ever. We are paying for the Western farmers and receiving no recompense of any kind; we are getting nothing as a quid pro quo.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, do I understand that the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall) is through with his presentation and discussion of the Prairie Farm Assistance Bill?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Of the Prairie Farm Assistance Bill, yes—Bill No. 14.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: All I desire to say about Bill No. 14 is that the proposed statutory change, which leaves it entirely to the Minister or the Governor in Council to determine when and where an emergency exists, is a most extraordinary one. I should have thought the Government would be very careful to place restrictions around such a proposal, and to provide that such and such must be done before it would act. If I understand the honourable senator correctly, he says that this matter is left entirely to the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: No. Under the Act the Governor in Council could proclaim any year an emergency year, provided the price of wheat was below eighty cents. The only thing this Bill does is to enable the Government to take the roof off that price in designating an emergency year.

The Act now on the Statute Book which we passed two years ago, I think, provides for the appointment of a Board of Review to examine the applications made for this assistance through the municipalities, and to report as to what should be done in the different districts. The Executive Council, in deciding whether an emergency exists or not, acts upon the information gathered from the municipal officers and the Board of Review as to crop conditions.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable senators, copies of Bill 14 are not yet before us, but I gather from the explanation given that the necessity for this Bill is predicated entirely upon a bill, yet to come from the other House, that increases the price of wheat to ninety cents a bushel. I, as one member of this honourable body, object strenuously to any proposal to go ahead with the present Bill before we have received the bill to which it relates.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: We will just leave the second reading. A motion for second reading is more or less out of order.