

is exactly for the purpose of protecting the quality of seed. Our seed analysts will take the seed under a proper light on a sheet of paper, and by the methods known to them, by segregating the different kinds of seeds, picking out the noxious weeds, such as quack-grass or any other weed seeds, they will leave the residue clean. This measure provides for just so many weed seeds to the pound, but it should not and does not provide for any quack-grass being there. It is extremely difficult to safeguard commercial seeds that are being put on the market from being contaminated with quack-grass. I have grown brome-grass for thirty years, the first seed coming from Austria. It was ten years, indeed more, after I started growing it, before I saw first signs of quack-grass. I had forgotten what Ontario quack-grass looked like, and I attributed this to some of the native quack-grass which you find so prevalent on the prairies and which are not nearly so harmful as the old-fashioned quack-grass. After a time, it got thicker and I had to go out of the business altogether in order to save my farm from pollution and my customers from charging me with selling noxious weeds in grass seed.

Mr. WOODS: What safeguard has the farmer as regards the retail merchant? Have retail merchants to label all grades of seeds conspicuously on the bag containing the seeds so that the farmer may know exactly what he is buying?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The seeds are all graded and named—"Registered, No. 1, 2, 3, 4." There are four grades and the parcels must be so marked. If, upon examination, the contents do not prove to be so, why, you have an action in the usual way in the courts against the seed merchant who supplied you with the seed. The courts are constantly applying for the seed certificates that are given by the Seed branch, as evidence in case of charges in our ordinary courts.

Mr. GARDINER: Does the minister contemplate reducing the number of weed seeds to the pound as under the old Seed Control Act?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I cannot just recall that. That is a detail which I do not have at my finger-tips. But you can understand that, in a whole wagon load, you cannot get seeds absolutely free from weed seeds. You have to stipulate a certain quantity of weed seeds, and I do not know whether that has been reduced in number or not. In 1911, when the act was introduced, it was thought to be a very severe act, and I would imagine,

now that it is twelve years since then, the restrictions have been tightened up a little more.

Mr. GARDINER: I would like to say, for the minister's benefit, that my experience is that under the Seed Control Act, the number of noxious weed seeds allowed per pound in the average seed is much too high. I have been connected with municipal work in western Canada for something like seven years, in a district where I have had to supply from year to year much seed grass to the settlers of that particular district. I want to impress upon the minister that it is important that he should look into this question and see to it that the Seed Control Act, as regards the number of noxious weed seeds to the pound, is tightened up much more than it is at the present time.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think that is right.

Mr. CALDWELL: In the old Seed Control Act I always considered that there was one very great fault. Seed men were allowed to have three No. 1's, for instance, three No. 1 Timothy—No. 1 Sun, which had a very small percentage of weed seeds; No. 1 Moon, which would be allowed a larger percentage of weed seeds, and No. 1 Star, which would have a still greater percentage of weed seeds. I have known merchants to be selling No. 1 Star, which was actually a No. 3, or should be, as No. 1. It was the third grade of Timothy; but this was marked on the bag as No. 1 government standard and was sold in competition with the actual No. 1. Our agricultural society used to buy for its members No. 1 Sun. A local store-keeper would be able to sell No. 3 grade marked No. 1, government standard, and assert it was the same, while as a matter of fact it would be two grades lower in quality. In this new act there should be no misunderstanding in this matter. The grades should be marked 1, 2 and 3; there should not be three grades of No. 1, which would have a misleading effect.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think so.

Mr. GOULD: In western Canada many initial elevators in the spring advertise that they have different kinds of cereals for sale. Will these initial elevators come under the provisions of the act and be regarded as dealers in the sense of this proposed legislation? In my town there is a firm that does an extensive seed business, so extensive, in fact, that the other elevators compete with it. It provides seed grains in quantities of 100, 200,