

of which we hear so much. At the present time the reserves of moisture in Western Canada are the lowest in years. In Saskatchewan there was no rain last year after the 23rd of June, the result being a short crop for us. Manitoba had heavy rains in the fall, but as you go West and get into Saskatchewan, and then into Alberta, you find the moisture reserves are very low. Moreover, we have had the mildest winter in years; indeed, we have had no winter at all in Western Canada. There is no snow, no moisture of any kind, and I am looking for a very short crop, if not a crop failure. Therefore I think we need not concern ourselves at all about having a very big surplus after this coming year, and I am not the only one holding that opinion. In my experience since 1911, after a mild winter with very little snow and moisture you are almost sure to have a poor crop; whereas an old-time, tough, cold winter, with lots of snow and moisture, means a great crop.

I am pretty well in agreement with the view of those honourable senators who have said that the three Bills are closely related. Of course, I am not satisfied with the price of 90 cents a bushel. I think that if the Government is going to buy only some 280,000,000 bushels, it will practically cover only the crop-failure areas, and, if we should happen to get a big crop, the rest of the wheat will all have to remain on the farms. I agree with the honourable senator from Saskatchewan North (Hon. Mr. Horner) as to the amount of money we shall obtain under Bill 12, respecting wheat acreage reduction. In our district at any rate, in West Central Saskatchewan, the summer-fallow of last year must be placed in crop this year, and so far as I know, hardly anyone will obtain payment of a large bonus, if any at all, under section 4. However, there are other sections of the West where a certain acreage may remain in summer-fallow, and those sections will of course find the proposed legislation a great benefit. It will help us to go into the growing of other kinds of grain, and if this Bill does not help in any other way, that in itself, I think, will be a great advantage.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read a third time?

Hon. Mr. KING: It has been suggested that it be referred to a joint committee composed of members of the Committees on Agriculture and Forestry, and Banking and Commerce. This is an unusual procedure, and as the measure is to a considerable extent

financial, I propose that it be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. As is well known, every honourable senator may attend a standing committee whether he be a member of it or not. I suggest to my honourable friend that he proceed in that way.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Then will the honourable acting leader make the motion?

Hon. Mr. KING: I make the motion accordingly. I would ask the committee to try to meet to-morrow morning in order that we may have this legislation before the Senate to-morrow afternoon.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: There is nothing in our rules to prevent us from constituting the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Banking and Commerce into a special committee to consider the three Bills.

Hon. Mr. DONNELLY: I agree with the honourable leader of the Government for more than one reason. The Committee on Agriculture is a small committee. As chairman of that committee, I have no objection to the Bill being referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, for I am aware that three of the members of the Committee on Agriculture are not present and will not be able to attend to-morrow. As has been already stated, senators have the right to be present at meetings of any standing committee and join in the discussion. I am also a member of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and I am sure members of that committee will be pleased to have any senators who are interested in the Bills exercise their right to attend and give us the benefit of their views.

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Thursday, March 26, 1942.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION BILL REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. BLACK presented, and moved concurrence in, the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 12, an Act respecting Wheat Acreage Reduction.