

*Canadian Livestock Feed Board*

Apart from the question of having something more than a subsidy, which policy has a tendency to be negative, although overall in Nova Scotia there has been a definite positive effect, there should be an incentive for farmers to develop land that is fallow. There should be a sort of hybrid policy whereby the farmer could obtain a grant and invest in feed-drying kilns and equipment in order to process his own feed grain. This type of policy should be developed because the land is there and at the present time much of it could be developed in this way.

The question of storage facilities in the east is a very real problem. For instance, Saint John has not the proper facilities for loading grain and perhaps has not the positive qualities that are needed for a feed grain port. Neither Saint John nor Halifax has the storage facilities for feed grain which we in Nova Scotia need.

I would hope that the feed grain board would look at this problem in an advisory capacity and not concentrate solely on the buying and selling of feed grain. I would hope it would help in the development of storage facilities in the east, which are woefully inadequate at the moment for the ever-increasing market for feed grain. If the feed grain agency is only to buy and sell I think we have to watch, as previous speakers have mentioned, that it does not develop into just another agency that is concerned with costs and charges which are perhaps discriminatory in respect of local feed grain producers. There is room for improvement in this regard. A farmer can not buy directly from the Canadian Wheat Board, which has created many problems for him. Hopefully, the feed grain board will co-ordinate policy and eliminate some of the problems that exist at the present time. It is our hope that the board will be a watchdog over what happens from the time of the sale to the broker in Winnipeg to the time the feed grain ends up in the farmer's hands, because there is a very substantial difference in price between these two points.

However, Mr. Speaker, as a province which is concerned with feed grain more than any other Atlantic province we welcome the setting up of this board. We hope that the people appointed to the board will be truly representative of our area and will work to remove discrimination, keep costs down and co-ordinate policies rather than becoming involved in direct competition with the Canadian Wheat Board in the west. We do

not want the anomaly of two boards in competition with one another.

In view of our past history and development we believe that the policy of paying subsidies should be directed more to providing grants to help the farmer develop his own feed grain resources. If we were also to develop our storage facilities in the east there would be a real improvement in our agricultural potential. I believe this is a matter the feed grain board should look into. In order that the debate may move on and the minister may close the debate on second reading, I do not intend to speak any longer. In general we in the east, and certainly those of us from the province of Nova Scotia, are in favour of the establishment of this feed grain board for which we have waited many, many years.

**Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I shall detain the house but briefly. The hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan) has said that the establishment of this board is very encouraging to the farmers of Nova Scotia, and he certainly speaks accurately. There is no doubt that many of our farmers in particular lines of production simply could not have continued without the kind of assistance that has been afforded them over the last 25 or 26 years by the subsidy on the transportation of feed-stuffs. They are pleased to see that this subsidy is to be given a more permanent aspect by being put on a statutory basis.

I believe they are also pleased by the fact that the board will be given adequate powers to protect their interests as against anyone who might wish to intervene and make an unconscionable profit between the point where the grain leaves the producer in the western provinces and the point where it reaches the eastern feeder.

What I have to say, Mr. Speaker, goes beyond that question. The assistance that is provided is definitely of importance to agriculture as it now exists in our eastern provinces. Moreover, I think we would all agree that there is likely to be an increasing need for agricultural products as the population of this continent increases, and that it is a wise move to anticipate that demand for agricultural products.

Various speakers have mentioned some of the problems that the program, as it has been carried out has raised. For example, the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) mentioned the general exclusion of Ontario grown