

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

and there in western Canada, "We cannot help it; we have a surplus". They cannot explain the fact that the United States and other exporting nations dumped wheat in our world markets at a price far below the international wheat agreement, while we sat around for a year and a half with labour troubles which did everything to destroy the economy of our western agriculture. I agree with what Senator Cameron said, that if there were an election tomorrow or even after tomorrow there would not be one Liberal elected west of the Great Lakes. He happens to be a Liberal appointment, for the information of my good friends.

Let me go on with the quotation as follows:

a lack of flexibility in pricing associated with selling on an f.o.b. basis at "one price to all customers"; insufficient effective market development work—

The Economic Council of Canada says that what has been done by the Canadian Wheat Board has failed. On close examination one finds that they are not doing their job. In the face of that evidence this government has the audacity to bring in Bill C-197, to which I will refer in a few moments, under which the marketing of cattle and hogs will be taken over not only in western Canada but throughout the country as wheat is controlled by the Wheat Board.

Let us pause here for a few moments to consider the cattle industry. I should like to read from the Canada Year Book. I know that the Liberals are even capable of changing that when it does not agree with their view, as they did during the last constitutional crisis. I can understand why the Minister of Agriculture would question even the facts contained in the Canada Year Book.

**Mr. Olson:** All I said was I think it would be a good idea to pause now.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Let us look at what kind of business we are talking about. We are not talking about peanuts, as the Prime Minister called it the other day. The number of beef cattle exported to the United States in 1962 amounted to 128,524. But on the farms in that year in Canada—this is the latest figure—there were 12,781,000 cattle and calves.

Let us take a look at Saskatchewan to see why the ranchmen want the government to keep their hands off their business. It is bad enough for the government to get into their business through the white paper, but let them stay out of marketing: that is our message to the government. In Saskatchewan

[Mr. Woolliams.]

there are on the farms right now 1,596,000 beef cattle and 272,000 milk cattle. In Alberta we have 2,167,000 beef cattle and 282,000 milk cattle. On the farms in the whole of Canada today there are approximately 13 million head of cattle. That is not peanuts. That is a multi-million dollar industry, yet this government wants to appoint a bunch of Grit bureaucrats to take over the control of marketing and to lose it as effectively as they have in respect of wheat.

Let us take a look at what this bill has to say. First of all, the board which the government wants to set up will be absolutely compulsory. They set up a special council and say, "You may have hearings". But who appoints the members of the council? The government does. The council then makes certain recommendations to the minister, or the minister makes certain recommendations to the council. You can rest assured that, as with any other board whether it is the board of control for television or Information Canada, a bunch of Grits will be appointed. There is no question about that. I say, first of all, that this board will put all the ranchers and all the farmers out of business. They lost the grain trade because they were operating a paralysed Wheat Board and did nothing to assist the board. Now they will lose the cattle market and the hog market.

• (3:30 p.m.)

What is this dictatorial monstrosity? That is the question I ask this House tonight. It is a compulsory board. I have read this bill and I understand it thoroughly. Once we have passed Bill C-197 it will be a compulsory board; there is no question about that. I can tell the minister that the ranchers in Alberta do not want a board, voluntary or compulsory, but even if they did want a board surely it should be a board formed by producers who know the cattle business. Some of the men the government presently has looking after wheat do not know the difference between wheat, barley and oats. I am sure the same will apply with regard to the hog and cattle industries. If there is any question about that, I would ask the minister to turn to page 4 of the bill where it says:

There shall be a council to be known as the National Farm Products Marketing Council consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members—

Who will appoint the council? The Governor in Council. Who is the Governor in Coun-