

the Canada Grain Act. The chief feature of it is the constitution of a Board of Appeal instead of the Survey Board, which now determines questions by way of appeal.

As there are many amendments of an administrative character in the Bill, I shall be very glad to furnish the House with further information in committee.

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

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Fowler in the Chair.

On section 1—Board of Appeal:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is this a new board?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes. The appeals are carried on now amongst the grain men themselves; they appoint certain of their members, who act gratuitously on the Board of Appeal. The system is unsatisfactory; consequently it is thought to be very much more in the public interest to have a permanent Board of Appeal.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I understand that there are three commissioners on this board, and that they form the Grain Board at the present time. Have they been acting as the Board of Appeal?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, they appoint other people members of the Grain Exchange.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I am not opposing this section; it seems to be a very good one. At whose instance did it originate? Was it asked for or by the grain dealers?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I understand this was asked for by the grain dealers, and that I suppose would include the grain growers as well.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—stock-taking:

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Is there any change in the procedure for stock-taking that was provided for in the old Act?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The same system is adopted as has been followed hitherto, except that the percentage of overage has been reduced, as I understand, to one-quarter of one per cent. It was not fixed before; it was left discretionary.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I think the overage was larger than one-quarter of one per

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

cent; I think it was one-half of one per cent.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The elevators got that.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I suppose this is the result of the investigation that has been conducted by the other Chamber, showing that the grain people have been making big profits.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, it is brought about by reason of those disclosures.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I would like to ask the honourable leader whether the Government has considered the advisability of taking all these overages themselves and being responsible for the losses. I understand that the grain is weighed by the Government weighers, and they should therefore be responsible for seeing that the grain is properly weighed into the elevators. If it is properly weighed I do not quite see how these overages would occur. It seems that on some occasions there are overages and on other occasions there is a deficit, amounting to a considerable proportion of the quantity of grain that passes through the elevator during the season. The present arrangement, as I understand, is that an allowance of fifteen pounds per car is made to cover shortages of weight. That may seem to be a small amount, but in the large number of cars that are weighed up during the season the total may perhaps be considerable. Under this clause the arrangement is that the percentage is cut down from one-half of one per cent, which I understand it was, to "one-quarter of one per cent of the gross amount of the grain received in the elevators during the crop year," and "the excess surplus is to be sold annually by the Board of Grain Commissioners, and the proceeds thereof paid to the said board." I have not the other Act before me. Is the provision that the surplus shall be sold annually by the Board of Grain Commissioners a new provision, or was that in the previous Act?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is a new provision, as to one-quarter of one per cent.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Yes, the one-quarter of one per cent is a new provision, but I am referring to the provision that the Board of Grain Commissioners shall sell all the excess surplus. I have not been able to examine into the question myself, and I am asking for information on this point