

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: I agree it is not advisable to proceed with second reading without every honourable member having the Bill on file.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: We have not yet received any copy.

On motion of Hon. Mr. King, it was ordered that the Bill remain on the Order Paper for second reading to be considered later this afternoon.

DIVORCE BILLS

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee on Divorce, the following Bills were severally read the second and third times, and passed, on division:

Bill M, an Act for the relief of Edith Morgan Black.

Bill N, an Act for the relief of Betty Leah Bregman Beloff.

Bill O, an Act for the relief of Malca Levitt, otherwise known as Atty Malcy Levitt.

Bill P, an Act for the relief of Jack Simon.

Bill Q, an Act for the relief of Marie Louise McCarthy Smyth.

Bill R, an Act for the relief of Marie Glenna Grace Thomas Reynolds.

Bill S, an Act for the relief of Isabel Jessica Black Jolley.

Bill T, an Act for the relief of Margaretha Elisabeth Buck Peereboom.

Bill U, an Act for the relief of Ethel May Marshall James.

Bill V, an Act for the relief of Anastasia Tkaczuk Wojtkowycz.

Bill W, an Act for the relief of Phyllis Wilda Valentine Park Evans.

Bill X, an Act for the relief of Louise Mehliiss Jackson.

Bill Y, an Act for the relief of Bertha Beatrix Berlind Ripstein.

Bill Z, an Act for the relief of Lola McIntosh.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE BILL

MOTION FOR SECOND READING

On the Order:

Second reading of Bill 14, an Act to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.—Hon. Mr. King.

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I would ask that the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall) move the second reading of this Bill.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Is that Bill before us?

Hon. DUNCAN McL. MARSHALL: This is an amending Bill of only one clause. Under the Act no year can be declared an emergency

year unless wheat is less than 80 cents a bushel. The probabilities are that the price will be raised 10 cents above that level, and so the amending clause provides:

The Governor in Council may, for the purposes of this Act, declare any crop year to be an emergency year.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Would the honourable senator be good enough at this point to inform us under what conditions the Governor in Council would feel justified in declaring any crop year to be an emergency year?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The Act provides that when there is a bad crop in a certain territory the Governor in Council can declare the crop year to be an emergency year, and assist the farmers under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. This Bill makes but one change. It provides that the Governor in Council may, if he considers there has been virtually no crop in a certain district, declare the crop year as to that district to be an emergency year, even though wheat is over 80 cents a bushel, and may proceed along the lines laid down in the Act, which, I believe, was passed last session.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Wide open.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: No. The Act defines crop failures and lays down the conditions under which evidence is taken from municipalities as to crop failures, and the manner in which applications for assistance to farmers are to be dealt with. The purpose of the Farm Assistance Act is simply to help the farmer live through the year after he has had a crop failure. As we know, some form of national insurance was suggested, but the decision of the Privy Council discouraged any action along that line. For the last two years the Government has, under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, been assisting farmers in those districts where crop failures have been declared.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: The amendment apparently leaves it entirely to the discretion of the Government. Is that discretion limited by the statute?

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: The Government had that discretion before, but if wheat was 80 cents a bushel, or 10 cents above the fixed price, it was thought it would not be necessary to declare any crop year an emergency year. Now, as it costs more to raise wheat, the other House has passed a Bill increasing the price to 90 cents, and consequently under the Act no assistance could be given to the prairie farmer at all. This amendment removes the 80-cent block, so to speak, and allows the Government to proceed under the Act in any