

Agricultural Products Act

continued for another year until the 31st of March, 1950. There was some discussion of the bill this afternoon, as there has been on previous days, to which I think I should make some reference.

The suggestion has been made that there is no real emergency, and that no emergency has been established in the discussions having to do with the bill. The preamble to the act passed in 1947 reads as follows:

Whereas His Majesty's dominions and foreign countries, during and as the result of the war against Germany and Japan, were and still remain in grave distress for want of adequate food supplies; and whereas for the more efficient prosecution of the war and in order to assist in the relief of suffering and the distribution of food supplies the government of Canada entered into agreements for the sale or export of food supplies to other governments or agencies thereof, which agreements still continue in force; and whereas certain orders and regulations were made by the governor in council under the authority of the War Measures Act and the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, 1945, for the purpose of enabling Canada to carry out the said agreements; and whereas the said orders and regulations will expire on the thirty-first day of March, 1947, and it is necessary by reason of the existing national emergency that parliament confer authority to enable the government of Canada to fulfil its obligations under the said agreements and to continue to sell and export food supplies to distressed countries for the relief of suffering and the distribution of essential food supplies, in order to maintain economic stability and to ensure an orderly transition from war to peace: Therefore His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

The suggestion was made this afternoon that this refers to a situation which does not continue down to the present time, that there really is no emergency at present, and that therefore this legislation does not apply. During the discussions that have been going on in connection with the legislation, it has been repeated over and over again that a court in Manitoba decided recently that there was no emergency. I only wish to say as to the wording of the finding, as it has been placed on *Hansard*, that there must have been in the minds of those who were making the finding, some mistake about the situation which existed, because in 1946, the first year after the war, it had been declared by many that there was an emergency.

One of the declarations made was made by the government of the United States, and it was to the effect that for the purpose of making malt we should not be using barley, which is the grain that has been referred to most in what has been said in this house. The United States government limited the amount of barley which could be utilized for the purpose of making malt, and we in this country did likewise. We limited the amount of barley which could be utilized in Canada for

the purpose of making malt, and therefore placed some limitation upon the amount of barley which could be shipped into the United States where they also had regulations. There was a limitation on the amount of barley which should be shipped into that country and utilized for a purpose which was ruled against by the government of the country itself.

I think one only needs to state that fact in order to emphasize that an emergency existed.

Mr. MacNicol: In what year, 1946?

Mr. Gardiner: In 1946, and it continued on into 1947. Regulations were passed with regard to these matters both in the United States and in Canada during that period of time. One might say, as has been said in making the findings in connection with the court case, that farmers are not in a condition of hardship, that they are not suffering as the result of an emergency. But when one looks back to 1946 one recalls that that was one of the poorest crop years that the farmers of eastern Canada had. They did not produce enough feed grain in the eastern provinces to feed half the livestock that were on the farms. Therefore it became necessary to prevent the shipment of feed grain out of this country into the United States. That was the second reason, in addition to the reason which had to do with the control of grain utilized for malting purposes. Feed grain had to be shipped east. The elevators were not allowed to store that grain at Fort William for the purpose of shipping it into the United States. The grain was taken possession of by the distribution organization set up by the government for the purpose of taking care of the shortages that existed not only, as suggested by my friend from Stanstead (Mr. Hackett), in the area in Quebec that he represents, nor only in the province of Ontario. These shortages existed all the way from British Columbia right through to Halifax. If the grain had not been retained on this side of the line and distributed under government control during that season, at least twenty-five per cent of the livestock of this country never would have been properly fed and finished in Canada, and the farmers would not have shown prosperity. I cannot conceive of any greater emergency in any country than that which would have been created in the first year after the war, after controls in the United States had been taken off the prices by permitting of all the feed grain in this country to go out of Canada in order to get the advantage of the higher prices which prevailed in the