

Mr. LADNER: The world's poultry congress is to be held in London next year. Canada occupies a particularly prominent place in that coming event by reason of the fact that one of her highest and best officials, Mr. F. C. Elford, is president of the congress. He is a gentleman with a high reputation and is internationally known. In view of the fact that this exhibition is held once in three years, and considering the rapid development of the poultry business in Canada and its extension to foreign markets, is provision being made in these estimates for Canada's participation in the congress?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: In the supplementaries there is \$25,000 for the purpose.

Mr. KENNEDY: Does the minister's department control the regulations in regard to the grading of meats?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY: What progress have we made in Canada in the grading of meats for home consumption, including beef, pork, mutton and lamb?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have regulations only with regard to beef and poultry. The positions of graders of beef have recently been advertised and are now under consideration by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. KENNEDY: The department has spent a good deal of money to encourage the production of lamb in Canada and has carried on strenuous propaganda to keep up quality. But we are permitting New Zealand mutton—old bucks I believe—to come into Canada for sale all over the country as lamb. What on earth is the use of spending government money to encourage farmers to produce lamb when we allow mutton to come in from New Zealand and be sold throughout the country as lamb? This at once spoils the market for the article which you are encouraging the farmers to produce. I think it is foolish. We ought to have a grading system which will protect the consumer against exploitation in this regard.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have given more attention in Canada to the grading system than anywhere else on this continent and I think we might try it out on beef on the voluntary basis before beginning with lamb—even the old fashioned lamb my hon. friend refers to. The United States has tried the system but it is nothing to write home about. I think, however, that if we in Canada persevere to the end we shall succeed.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): How long have the voluntary grading resolutions been in force?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: As regards beef, the regulations have just been gazetted and the advertisements for graders have been only recently completed. The matter is now before the Civil Service Commission and until we have the graders appointed we cannot consider the act in force.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Does the minister anticipate that the butchers are going to ask him to send his inspectors to stamp their meat?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They will ask the department to have their beef graded. The regulations apply only to the abattoirs, who have already had several conferences with the beef grading committee which has travelled throughout the country for the last twelve months, and they have agreed to cooperate with us in a voluntary way.

Mr. KENNEDY: Is there any constitutional difficulty in the matter of beef grading so far as the provincial governments are concerned?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have no difficulty, and in any case the provinces have passed the necessary concurrent legislation.

Mr. KENNEDY: If the department can prevent mutton being sold as lamb they should take steps in the matter at once.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I appreciate my hon. friend's support of the general policy of meat grading. We are now at the stage where home consumption is satisfied by home production, and we intend to try out the system with beef before applying it to lamb. We have had a number of representations, and I expect to go to the Pacific during July, when I shall make diligent inquiries into the desirability of pursuing the grading system further in the direction indicated.

Mr. ROWE: Does the minister propose to make to the Canadian national exhibition the grant I suggest? The exhibition is worth more than \$5,000, especially when they are putting up a building of such magnitude as the one I have mentioned. The Canadian national exhibition contributes \$26,000 annually in floor space to the British Empire marketing board and when it can do that surely it is only reasonable that this government should give that fair \$17,000.