

## CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

### OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, March 15, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

#### GARNET WHEAT

##### REFERENCE OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRAIN STANDARDS TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have a motion which I should like to present to the house, but before doing so, I think a brief statement in regard to the question of garnet wheat might be advisable. My motion, I may say, is to refer the matter to the committee on agriculture. The statement is as follows:

Under section 25 of the Grain Act, 1930, a committee on grain standards is set up each year. For the crop year 1931-32 the committee on western grain consisted of:

E. B. Ramsay, Chief Commissioner, Board of Grain Commissioners; D. A. MacGibbon, Commissioner, Board of Grain Commissioners; C. M. Hamilton, Commissioner, Board of Grain Commissioners; J. D. Fraser, Chief Inspector, Board of Grain Commissioners; George Serls, Chairman, Grain Appeal Tribunal, Winnipeg; George Hill, Chairman, Grain Appeal Tribunal, Calgary; C. R. Manahan, Chairman, Grain Appeal Tribunal, Edmonton; Doctor F. J. Birchard, Chemist in charge, Grain Research Laboratory; L. H. Newman, Dominion Cerealists; H. Sellers, representing the millers; George Bennett, W. H. Fairfield, C. C. Gillis, W. McLeod, representing Grain Growers in Alberta; J. D. Read, Dean A. M. Shaw, J. Wellbelove, A. E. Wilson, W. Wright, representing Grain Growers in Saskatchewan; Doctor G. P. McRostie, P. V. Wright, D. A. Kane, representing Grain Growers in Manitoba; K. Campbell, representing Grain Growers in British Columbia; C. J. Drake, Secretary. In accordance with their usual practice, the committee selected and settled standard samples of the statutory grades. During the period of the discharge of their regular duties they were confronted with the problem of garnet wheat, and after full

consideration passed the following resolution, which was included in their report to the Board of Grain Commissioners and by the latter included in their annual report as required by section 23 of the Canada Grain Act:

That this western committee of grain standards recommend that after the 31st of July, 1932, garnet wheat shall not be graded in the first four grades of red spring wheat as specified in schedule 1 of the Canada Grain Act, 1930, and further recommend that the following grades be established:—

- No. 1 C.W. Garnet wheat;
- No. 2 C.W. Garnet wheat;
- No. 3 C.W. Garnet wheat;

and that any garnet wheat that cannot be assigned to these grades on account of special characteristics shall be graded No. 4 northern, or in the commercial grades of red spring wheat according to the standards established for such grades.

This resolution has no effect in law, but is an indication of the composite view of this important committee on grain standards, and carries the judgment of the Board of Grain Commissioners and, therefore, cannot be ignored.

To give effect to the resolution, my opinion is that it will be necessary to amend the Grain Act, section 24, which fixes the standards for western grain and to provide by statute for a separate grade for garnet wheat. I therefore suggest that this resolution should be submitted to the agriculture committee, where full consideration can be given to the whole question and a decision arrived at as to whether or not the Canada Grain Act should be amended. I am not passing any opinion on the suggestion of the committee on grain standards, but I wish to move:

That the report of the committee on grain standards for the crop year 1931-32, in so far as it relates to garnet wheat, be referred to the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization with instructions that the whole subject be inquired into carefully and that the said committee shall have power to call for witnesses, papers and documents and to report to the house its findings.

Motion agreed to.