

FARMERS' STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the other day the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Luchkovich) asked a question about a reported strike among farmers delivering grain at a place called Myrnam, in Alberta. The question is to be found at page 1207 of Hansard. I have an answer from the chairman of the board of grain commissioners which I shall read:

A dispute arose at Myrnam between the farmers of that neighbourhood and the local grain buyers, chiefly over the question of the grading of wheat locally. The farmers organized and on the 4th December declared that they would deliver no more wheat to the Myrnam elevators, of which there are five, until such time as their demands were met. Their demands chiefly centred around the question of buying tough grain, and subsequently narrowed down to a demand that the buyers in the local elevators be removed.

The matters in dispute were not matters over which the board had jurisdiction, i.e. the sale and grading of grain locally and the personnel of the buyers in the elevators. The board, however, took various steps in connection with it. Our assistant commissioner immediately called a meeting of the farmers of the place, and the chief inspector from Edmonton was sent there for a week in an endeavour to establish a correct basis for grading. Commissioner Hamilton subsequently went to Myrnam and met the strike committee and attended a very large meeting of the neighbouring farmers.

As a result of these meetings the board, feeling that there was a certain amount of responsibility on the trade for the manner in which their representatives there had permitted the situation to develop, called a meeting of the companies interested and managed to induce them to change their buyers. There has not yet been time to see whether the strike farmers have accepted this and that business is now being conducted as usual.

ALBERTA COAL INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): I desire to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) if there will be an investigation into an industry in which there have been serious reductions in wages, very low standards of living, extremely intermittent work, and certain charges now put forward that there is discrimination against union men who are active, namely, the coal industry in the province of Alberta?

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): If my hon. friend will send me particulars the matter will be given consideration.

BUREAU FOR TRANSLATIONS

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 6, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cahan for the second reading of Bill No. 4, respecting the bureau for translations.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the discussion which has taken place on the second reading of this bill clearly discloses that there are members who voted for the six months' hoist who nevertheless recognize that the existing translation system, or lack of system, requires very considerable reform. The existing system has developed without supervision or control in the most haphazard way, and in many respects it functions inefficiently and fails to achieve satisfactory results.

The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) fully recognizes the difficulties of the problem, which he suggests might be solved by a resolution of this house. The government are advised that an act of parliament will best serve to solve the problem.

The hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin) was forced to invent the plea that on account of my physical stature I might force the blue book translators of this house, over whom I have no direction or control, to do such translation work as I might deem necessary, and if I understood his suggestion aright—he speaks French with a clear enunciation and I think I was able to follow him—he even suggested that I might go into another department than my own and possibly seize one of its translators by the ear and force him to undertake the translation of important official documents which require immediate attention. My hon. friend is very facetious at times but he must recognize that the government of this country cannot be efficiently administered on those lines. Year after year the members of this house and the Senate have complained of the inefficiency of the present service. The hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) has quoted a few of those complaints, going back to the years 1902, 1906, 1907 and 1910. If members of the house desire to note the complaints which have been made in another place they may look at the Senate debates for May 26, 1926, and April 13, 1927. I might add to that oral complaints which I have received that the translation of the Hansard of that other place for September 1932 has only within the last few weeks been presented to the department of public printing for the printing of the French text.

In 1909, under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a committee of this house considering the matter