

*Seed Inspection*

ers but of others, good business demands that before any new variety of cereals be put on the market, advertised and sold it be tried out as to its merits at some of our experimental farms. Then, if proven to be good, the introducers or originators are permitted to sell it to the public. We have that principle recognized in certain provinces in connection with the floating of joint stock companies and wildcat schemes. These proposals have to go before a local government board in some provinces before they can sell stock, and this resolution is simply carrying out that principle. I can see disadvantage, but I can also see some advantages. There was a wheat called Alaska sold very extensively in the West as being a fabulous producer, running up as high as 100 bushels to the acre. It had its day and passed away. We grow older but I am not sure that we always grow wiser. Somehow the next fellow who comes along will get somebody else. The idea is to provide against a repetition of that and incidentally to keep up the reputation of our seed merchants that are doing a legitimate business. The conference recommended this; it was in the original bill. When the bill comes before the committee I will be glad to have the benefit of the advice of those who are most concerned and I shall leave myself with an open mind as to whether such a provision shall be incorporated in the bill or not. There is one disadvantage. Take a real bona fide plant breeder who is developing a new variety; it may have a rather restraining and discouraging effect on him if he finds he has to put the results of his experiments in the hands of someone else for a year or two before he can place his product on the market. On the other hand if he believed his product was good, it should be a tremendously valuable medium of advertising to him if, after having tried it for two years on an experimental farm, he found that it was a good thing and he could sell it like hotcakes. So the matter has two sides to it, and I will leave it there with the committee at the present time. It is one of those details which I do not think I should mention at this stage, except that I want the committee to think about it between now and the time when we discuss it more fully in committee.

Provision is made in the bill to protect the quality of our seeds for export so that our reputation abroad will be safeguarded. We want our certificate to be as good as our bond, so that when we say that our seeds are so-and-so and they are accompanied by a certificate, the goods will be found to be the same as the certificate says. The same may be said with regard to a provision respecting

[Mr. Motherwell.]

imported seeds, to provide that they comply with our standard also. The provisions with respect to the enforcement of the act are practically the same as those in the old act. This is not a bill dealing with money, and therefore it does not require anything further to be said about it in that respect.

Mr. BROWN: In this measure, as in the old one, I suppose the definition of a commercial dealer will hold. Is it recognized that a farmer becomes a commercial dealer when he advertises that he has certain seeds for sale?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No. The question of what constituted advertising was discussed for a long time at the conference in my deputy's office. While it would take too long to give the committee all the details which are contained in the bill, a scheme has been worked out that will safeguard the farmers in that respect. The whole question was threshed out thoroughly at that conference. For example, the question of advertising in a farm paper that a farmer had seed for sale as it came from the threshing machine, was discussed. I myself have sold large quantities of grass seed to the seed houses of Brandon and Winnipeg, and that did not in any way infringe upon the provisions of the act.

Mr. BROWN: That is satisfactory.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: But if you went out to sell seeds, graded and specified by name and also complying with the conditions of the Seed Control Act, then you would have to come under the provisions of, and have to comply with the act, just as the seed merchants have to do, with respect to the provisions dealing with advertising. In other words, if a farmer became a seed merchant, he would have to be a seed merchant.

Mr. LOVIE: Will there be in this measure a provision to prevent the sale of quack-grass mixed with brome-grass?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is a very important question, and I do not know of any act that could provide for such a contingency. Unless the brome-grass is hand-picked and grown on some experimental farm or university farm, I do not think there is on the market any brome-grass that is not more or less mixed with quack-grass. It comes to us from Europe in that way. You may not notice the fact when it arrives; it may take several years before you detect the quack-grass; but it is not very long after you detect it before it becomes a serious menace. It is so like brome-grass that an ordinary observer cannot detect the difference. This legislation