

Supply—Trade and Commerce

item. The salaries are not paid by the federal government. This vote has nothing to do with the operation of the wheat board.

Item agreed to.

Canada Grain Act—

458. Administration, \$137,981.

Mr. Baier: Perhaps I am out of order again, Mr. Chairman; perhaps I should bring up what I want to discuss when the standing committee on agriculture and colonization meets to discuss the annual report of the Canadian wheat board and the board of grain commissioners. I intended to say something in connection with additional grain drying and storage facilities in northwestern Saskatchewan. I was also going to make some suggestions for changes in the initial quotas on grain at the elevators. I will ask the minister if I would be more in order to bring up these matters later, when the standing committee on agriculture and colonization meets.

Mr. Howe: I think there would be a better discussion then. However, we can discuss the board of grain commissioners, who are paid by the federal government, if my hon. friend wishes. Technically I think he can do that, but it might be better if he would defer that discussion until the committee meets, though he should do as he wishes. My thought is that it is a quarter to eleven and I would like to get the estimates passed.

Mr. Wright: Have the government given consideration to an overhaul of the Canada Grain Act? It is a number of years since we have had a major revision of that act, and I believe representations have been made to the minister or to the government in that regard. Perhaps they prefer to leave the decision until after we have discussed this matter in the committee on agriculture.

Mr. Howe: My hon. friend will find in *Votes and Proceedings* of today a resolution preceding a bill to amend the Canada Grain Act. In other words it is the intention to revise the act at this session.

Item agreed to.

Board of grain commissioners—

459. Operation and maintenance expenses, including inspection, weighing registration, etc., \$2,868,720.

Mr. Charlton: I wonder if the minister could give us some idea of the amount of grain that has been handled this year through each of the government owned elevators.

[Mr. Howe.]

The Chairman: Order. Perhaps the hon. member has not noticed that government grain elevators are not under this item but are under item 460.

Mr. McLure: I think there are some 1,200 employees of this board and I would like to know how many are civil servants and how many are permanent. When I asked the minister a question on another item I understood him to say that none of the employees were civil servants.

Mr. Howe: My hon. friend was asking about the Canada wheat board. The costs of that board, including the staff, are paid by the producers of grain. The government exercises general supervision over the work of the board but does not pay any of the expenses. The board of grain commissioners is quite different. Its costs are paid by the government and all its officers are paid by the government. Practically all the officers of the board of grain commissioners are permanent civil servants, even the elevator operators.

Item agreed to.

Canadian government elevators—

460. Operation and maintenance expenses, \$877,777.

Mr. Charlton: Could the minister tell us what amount of grain was handled through the government elevators last year, giving each elevator separately?

Mr. Howe: Some days ago I brought down the annual report of the board. That gives the information. I am sorry I have not a copy here. The reason my hon. friend does not have a copy is that we have not been able to get the report from the printers, but I am told it will be available for distribution next week, well before the meeting of the agriculture committee, and it contains all that information. The only information I have here is that the earned revenue from government elevators was \$1,101,914 and the expenditures were \$911,745, so there was a profit of about \$200,000 in the operation of the elevators. That covers the elevators at Prince Rupert, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge, and the Port Arthur elevator which is leased to a private operator.

Mr. Charlton: And Churchill?

Mr. Howe: And the one at Churchill.

Mr. Charlton: Am I to understand there is an operating profit of around \$200,000 on the government elevators?

Mr. Howe: There was last year.

Mr. Charlton: An over-all profit?