

*Canadian Livestock Feed Board*

agency of the western farmer, and the livestock feed grain board which has a purchasing function. Another important matter which was raised in the agricultural committee, during the time the Liberal party was opposed to this type of proposed agency, was the necessity of maintaining equilibrium between the cost factor for the production of western beef and other meat products and that same factor in eastern Canada.

That is a factor which most members of the committee were desirous of maintaining. We do not want this new board to sell grain in eastern Canada at a price much more advantageous than that being paid for grain in western Canada, thus creating a disparity between the two types of production, which in turn could only lead to an elimination of one of the boards, either the wheat board sales agency or the purchasing agency of the livestock feed grain board.

This is something which the advisory committee will have to examine more than once a year. When it knows production levels in western Canada it can relate them to needs in eastern Canada. The number of cattle in each area will be a large determining factor in the amount of purchases which the board will make. For these reasons the minister would be well advised to amend clause 15(3) by deleting the words "shall meet at least once a year" and substituting therefor the words "at least four times a year".

This board will have to make decisions at the beginning of each crop season and again in the fall of the year when the availability of grain is determined. It will also have to determine the amounts of grain to be stored, and in order to maintain the differential between east and west it should review the situation at fairly frequent intervals. If it does not, then one part of Canada will be unhappy and very likely that part will be western Canada.

The minister has said that there will be representatives on the committee from all areas. I hope this is true and that included among them are the areas of beef production in western Canada which have a great stake in the effects of this legislation and should play a primary role in an advisory capacity in maintaining what we believe is a reasonable status quo. Therefore I move as an amendment to clause 15(3), line 11, that the words "at least once a year" be deleted and the following words substituted therefor, "at least four times a year."

[Mr. Peters.]

**Mr. Sauvé:** I fail to understand the purport of the amendment because subclause 3 reads, "shall meet at least once a year at the headquarters of the board, and at such other times and places as it deems necessary in order to carry out its duties under this Act." One would think that members of the advisory committee would be responsible enough to have meetings as frequently as possible, and therefore there should be no necessity for the legislation to lay down four mandatory meetings. Members of the committee will have the responsibility of deciding how often meetings should be held. There must be one meeting each year and they can hold as many as they want in addition.

**Mr. Peters:** I agree that they can meet as often as they want, but in my opinion the minister fails to see what the function of this advisory committee is really going to be. I think he has not heard some of the representations of western farmers with regard to what this advisory committee is going to do. Maybe he does not know what this advisory committee is going to do. I am of the opinion that the committee, if it is going to discharge its function, will have to make recommendations in respect of how much grain will be bought and what the relationship of the selling price of that grain may be to eastern Canada so that the agency which we are now establishing and the board which buys and sells will not upset the status quo in western Canada.

● (5:00 p.m.)

I am only making this suggestion to the minister for his own protection, because in the initial stages the advisory committee will have to meet to decide on the amount of grain that is going to be planted, again when they know how much the crop is going to be, again when the grain is going to be moved into storage space, and again in the spring of the year when a decision will have to be made when we run into difficulty because of increasing costs because of insufficient grain. At this time I think the minister would be well advised to have advice in respect of how he is going to get grain into the various districts under this measure and with the advantages of the freight assistance which he also is going to be administering.

In the initial stages I think the minister will find there is going to be more interest in how much grain is available, where it will be available, and where it is going to be stored. Incidentally, the board may end up in the spring selling grain if there is too much in