

It is true that there is in the screenings a great deal of small wheat and other grains, such as wild buckwheat, that have actual feeding value and these could be taken out, but the great bulk of the black seeds could be taken out on the farms at the time of threshing. The thresher, if the season is a bad one and there is a heavy crop of weeds, threshing by the bushel, the more dirt he has in grain the more he is going to get for his work. That is one of the causes of this deleterious material being left in the grain. This should be brought home to the people who are responsible for this condition of affairs, namely, the farmers who grow the stuff. Steps should be taken to see that this stuff is taken out of the grain before the grain is sent to the elevator at all, and in that way the millers will not have the temptation to mix this stuff with their commercial feeding stuffs as has been the case in the past. I do not like to speak in this way with regard to this matter, but the fact is that this has been going on and getting worse from year to year until to-day in Ontario, in which about 40 per cent of the livestock of the country is raised, progressive dairymen, during the lactation period, although bran and shorts are undoubtedly the most valuable feeding stuff that the dairyman can get for his cows, avoid feeding bran and shorts as they would the most deadly poison, because for years past they have been losing annually large numbers of their cows for some unaccountable reason, and they have reached the conclusion that this loss is due to the immense quantity of this stuff that is in the mill feed.

Special emphasis is laid on noxious weeds, and one of the most poisonous seeds that we have is what is known as worm seed mustard not classed as noxious. The evidence in the department shows conclusively that many complaints have been received from farmers who have lost large numbers of young pigs through feeding this stuff. I referred to this last year and it is not necessary that I should go over it again. The same report says:

Of 32 samples of shorts, the records show 27 containing poisonous weed seeds, and 5 with unground seeds of noxious weeds. In the case of bran, 19 out of 28 samples show poison seeds, and 8 have noxious weeds.

The report of the Dominion Analyst, Dr. McGill, for 1919, states in regard to this matter:

Bran is adulterated by mixing with oat hulls and all sorts of rubbish. Shorts, in many cases, is simply bran reground so as to make it fine.

[Mr. Sutherland.]

I am going to trespass on the patience of the committee for a moment or two in order to refer to some of the analyses made by Dr. McGill as shown in Bulletin No. 412 for 1918. An inspector in the Vancouver district states that in a sample of mill feed of which the Lake of the Woods Milling Company were the vendors, there were 8,608 lamb's quarters and 48 black bindweed in a single pound. Can hon. members realize that any miller, particularly one of the largest milling companies, the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, would dare to put such stuff on the market and endeavour to sell it as what is known in this resolution as commercial feeding stuffs? That is the worst instance I see in this report, although such adulteration is quite common. Another sample showed 1008 lamb's quarters, and I could go on all down the line quoting similar instances. In a sample of mill feed sold by the Quaker Oats Company of Saskatoon, there were 16 wild oats, 192 black bindweed, 1,344 lamb's quarters in a single pound. That is the sort of stuff that is being sent broadcast throughout the country. We have been assured from year to year that the Government were going to take steps to deal with this evil; but instead of that being done, I am satisfied, from the resolution that has been introduced this afternoon, we are going to perpetuate this evil in even worse form than in the past. The millers may make mild protests against having to fix tags to bags containing this commodity when it is placed on the market. I venture to state that the millers have already been consulted in this matter and that they will be prominent on any such committee as has been referred to by the minister in order to see that their interests are taken care of, because it is well known that the farmers have not taken steps along that line in the past. Hon. members who from what is known as the Farmers' group, or who appropriate that name to themselves in this House, instead of condemning the practice that has been going on in the past virtually countenance it and make excuses for the condition which existed when their leader (Mr. Crerar) was Minister of Agriculture.

We are entitled to some assurance from the minister that something more than granting power to make regulations will be contained in this Bill. I have absolute confidence that if some of the men who are in the Department of Agriculture are given a free hand, they will be able to deal with this matter most effectively. They have the evidence of what is going on, and the fact