

*Fertilizers Act*

in those terms. It is not a new thing arising out of the war. To go back to some of the questions which have been asked and some of the discussion that has taken place, in order to give the correct information I would refer to page 2 of this act, section 4(3) which states:

The assignment of a registration number shall of itself authorize the sale of a fertilizer for the period continuing until the first day of July following the date upon which it is granted; but such registration may be renewed from year to year and the same registration number may be assigned to the fertilizer provided no change is made in the brand name, guaranteed analysis, materials from which it is made, or the fineness thereof.

That indicates that everyone has to come back once a year to have this product checked again and a number given to it, which may be the same number. Then it goes on to say:

The minister may cancel any registration which in his opinion has been made in violation of any of the provisions of this act or any regulations hereunder.

Then jumping over a page or two you find this, and it runs all through the act:

No person shall advertise, offer, sell, expose or hold in possession for sale any potash salts containing more than five-tenths of one per cent of anhydrous borax, or mixed fertilizer containing more than one-tenth of one per cent of anhydrous borax, or any fertilizer containing sufficient destructive ingredients or properties which may prove harmful to plant growth when the fertilizer is used in a reasonable manner.

Going on through the act, we find this all the way through: "The minister may appoint an advisory board"; "The minister may make regulations", and so on. Then coming down to the section we are dealing with, the section preceding it provides that the minister may make regulations prescribing the methods to be used in the examination or analysis of any fertilizer for the purposes of this act. Then comes the section we are proposing to put in, and it is followed by:

The minister may make regulations for any other purpose deemed by him to be necessary for making effective the provisions of this act.

I am not altogether sure that I could not do what is suggested in this amendment under the provisions already in the act, under which the minister has authority to make regulations for any purpose deemed by him to be necessary for making effective the provisions of this act. My purpose in reading these sections is simply to indicate that there is nothing new in the authority or the powers given to the minister; that this act has been on the statute books almost since the beginning of time as far as this country is concerned, and that it has been amended from time to time. One section of the act goes back to 1927; another

[Mr. Gardiner.]

goes back to 1928. I do not know just when the first bill was passed with regard to fertilizers, but it would be some considerable time ago.

Mr. HOMUTH: Were the regulations in regard to the allocation of fertilizers to certain territories part of the original act, or was that done under the War Measures Act?

Mr. GARDINER: Certain things were done under the War Measures Act. As someone has suggested, during the war we did not have the necessary quantities to mix the kind of fertilizers we knew to be best suited to certain districts. Therefore, during that period of time we took authority to say that the fertilizer which must be sold in a district, which was the nearest approach to what was required, would be numbered so and so and so. In some of these mixtures that were no nitrates at all and no potash, depending upon the needs of a particular area. These districts were told that for the time being they would have to get along without those particular ingredients. Now the war is over, and in these districts which we said could not have what they needed during most of the war, the soil has been depleted to a greater extent than before, and we believe we ought to have authority to go back and say to the people in that district that now they may have a mixture containing more of the particular elements they require..

Mr. FULTON: You do not say "may"; you say "must."

Mr. GARDINER: Yes; but if you do not say "must" I do not know how many people would pay much attention to it. You say this must be done; you say this particular mixture must be used, in order to meet the conditions existing there. You must go some place to get the material in the first instance. You cannot get all the potash you need in Canada today; you must get to an international board and make arrangements with them to have potash shipped into Canada in certain quantities. Then, when we know the quantities that are to be assigned to this country we say those quantities must be divided in order that all the people who need that ingredient may have their share. That is the only reason this is being done and the only reason it was done during the war. That is why it will be necessary to continue to follow this procedure for some time after the war. If with regard to this question my hon. friends want to say, "We will give it to you for one year," I am quite prepared to accept that. Or if they want to say, "We will give it to you for two years, but next year you