

prorogue by the first of next week. On the other hand, I take great satisfaction from the fact that the minister has accepted and embodied in the bill to be based on the resolution four or five policies or suggestions that I have advocated on the floor of this house, not only during this session but in other sessions, going back as far as 1934 and 1935.

I am glad to see the principle adopted of paying the farmer for storing his grain on the farm. The minister's statement would indicate that this storage will be paid on the basis of the period the wheat is held and, I assume, at so much a bushel. As hon. members will recall, on various occasions I have suggested that the rate should be one cent per bushel per month, which could be added to the fixed price.

The government has also adopted the principle of establishing a domestic price for grain in Canada. That has been done by the imposition of a processing tax of 15 cents a bushel on all grain going into domestic consumption. On many occasions I have suggested that we should have a fixed price of at least \$1.25 a bushel on grain consumed in Canada.

I also understand from the minister's statement that we are to put into effect the principle of a quota system in connection with deliveries to the market. Perhaps I may refer to that more particularly a little later, but I have been offering this suggestion since 1935. I would refer hon. members to *Hansard* for that year, at pages 375 and 376, where I took about a page and a half to outline in detail a system of controlling deliveries to the market under permits.

Then we were told that an advisory committee is to be appointed, which I was very glad to hear, and that there is to be provision for an interim payment to be made when the board sees fit.

I must say that I am not satisfied with regard to some features of this legislation. In the first place I maintain that the 70 cent fixed price is not large enough. It should be at least 75 cents, and I think the government could have gone to 80 cents under present conditions. Neither am I satisfied with the storage paid the elevators. I think the minister should have stated definitely what arrangement or agreement will be made in that regard. My suggestion would be that this storage should be cut to at least a half cent. Perhaps I may refer to that also a little later. We are told that the grain exchange is not to be closed. I have advocated the closing of the grain exchange during this period, and later in my remarks I shall present

[Mr. Perley.]

what I think is a good argument in favour of that step being taken. I also believe the board could have been given more powers, and I shall deal with that in more detail in a moment.

We have not seen the bill as yet, but from the minister's statement we have a pretty good idea what will be in it. The minister did not give us very much new information; we already knew practically everything he said in his announcement. Certainly no information has been given in respect of many important matters. That is the only statement we have had this session, but I would ask the minister and hon. members whether, from that statement, anyone learned anything about the operations of the wheat board. Who knows the present financial position of the board; how much grain they are holding, either on option or as cash grain; in what position that grain may be; what the board paid for the grain; what they have paid with respect to storage; to whom it has been paid, and so on? Who knows anything about it? There is nothing in the statement that would give us any information. Certainly we do not know who directs the whole selling policy of the board. Members of the board have been in Ottawa for practically three weeks, I think, and there have been some hole-in-the-corner meetings, to which I object. I know they have been meeting western Liberal members. I know they have met Liberal members in their private rooms.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): And they met the hon. member.

Mr. PERLEY: They have not met with me at all.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Oh, yes, they have.

Mr. PERLEY: I met them once. I was invited to a general meeting with the wheat board and the board of grain commissioners, which meeting was attended by all the western members and a great many of the eastern members as well. What information could we get at such a meeting in an hour, with fifty men ready to ask questions? We all know what a farce it was. I have asked questions on the floor of this house in an endeavour to get information. I have placed questions on the order paper, and I must say that the answers I have received have been a joke. Certainly they displayed ignorance of the situation or a deliberate attempt to evade the question.

In his statement yesterday the minister gave various estimates as of July 31, 1940. He stated there would be a carryover of about 290,000,000 bushels, of which about 270,000,000