

HOUSE DISCUSSES PROPOSED CHANGES IN FERTILIZER BILL

Liberal Members Sharply Divided Over Merits Of Measure Introduced By Mr. Hunter. Bright Prospects For Next Year's Potato Crop Pictured By Mr. W. M. Lea. House Adjourns Till Tuesday.

Provincial Legislature, March 24. The House met at 11.30 a. m. Hon. Mr. Stewart tabled answers to some questions.

On motion of Mr. Hunter the House went into committee with Mr. Strong in the chair, on an Act to amend an Act respecting seed or fertilizer mortgages on potato crops.

Clause 1 of the existing statute, passed in 1930, provides that "no mortgage, bill of sale, lien, charge, incumbrance, conveyance, transfer or assignment made, executed or created and which is intended to operate and have effect as a security shall, in so far as the same assumes to bind, comprise, apply to or affect any growing crop of potatoes, or crop of potatoes to be grown in future, in whole or in part, be valid except the same be made, executed or created as a security for the purchase price and interest thereon of seed potatoes or fertilizer."

The amendment purposes to add to the above section the words: "or as a security for the performance of an agreement to sell, deliver or barter potatoes in consideration of the sale, delivery or barter of seed potatoes or fertilizer."

Object of Bill

The promoter explained that the object of the bill was to guarantee the security of contracts between the potato dealers and farmers. He had looked carefully into the Act and also the amendment, and felt satisfied that the amendment would be a good thing for the farmers this year, especially for those who otherwise would be unable to buy fertilizer for their potato crops.

Mr. W. M. Lea asked if it was the purpose to compel the growers to deliver potatoes at a certain fixed price.

Hon. Mr. MacLean said the method is that a nominal price is placed on the potatoes. The farmer has the benefit of the advance if that price goes up. If a contract is entered into for \$100 worth of fertilizer, the farmer would have to supply a certain quantity of potatoes to cover that \$100. If the price of potatoes is higher when delivery is made, the farmer gets the benefit of the increase with the exception of twenty per cent, which the dealer keeps for his commission.

Mr. Lea asked if the farmer had the option of paying for the fertilizer in the Fall, rather than delivering the potatoes.

Hon. Mr. MacLean: "He may pay for the fertilizer at the time of the sale."

Mr. Lea: "He cannot, on the other hand, deliver the value of the fertilizer in cash. The only value of this bill is that in this case the farmer is given all but twenty per cent of the increased price. The question is whether, by passing this bill, we are not going to endanger the sale of our certified seed potatoes in the United States. I think there is a grave danger there. We should protect the interests of the Island seed market and not permit any company whatever to have control whereby they can go down to the Southern market and fix a price. Of course, the bill will permit a farmer to get his crop financed. But he can do that now by giving his bill of sale on the growing crop."

Hon. Mr. MacLean said that last year a price was fixed at 40 cents and that, to a certain extent, made the price. This year no price is fixed. The market will make the price.

Reasons For Amendment

Hon. Mr. Sharp said he had opposed an amendment to the Act last year on the ground that it covered subsequent crops. That might create a difficulty inasmuch as it might be another dealer who would be supplying fertilizer in a subsequent year. That clause does not appear in the bill now before the committee. This year, he believed it will be absolutely necessary for potato growers to make some arrangement whereby they may be able to get a sufficient amount of fertilizer to grow the number of acres they purposed to plant, because in a great many cases the banks will not make the advances. There are too many fer-

tilizer notes unpaid in the banks this year. Some reasonable arrangement must be provided for this emergency. Under this bill the price will be a matter of contract between the parties, and the dealer must accept potatoes in payment of the fertilizer.

Mr. H. H. Cox said his understanding of the bill was that the farmer will buy, say, \$100 worth of fertilizer, and at the time of purchase there is a set price on his potatoes. He has then to deliver potatoes to the amount of \$100, but having done so, he can sell the balance of his potato crop to whom he pleases. Today the farmers are in a hard position, and the merchant is just the same. Mr. Cox could not see anything wrong in the bill, providing that a set price is made by the contracting parties. He therefore approved.

Mr. Thane A. Campbell said he did not see much objection to the bill as explained by the hon. member from Souris (Hon. Mr. MacLean). Unfortunately, however, that provision is not made in the bill. The bill provides that any contract which may be made between the fertilizer dealer and the farmer shall be binding, and, as the leader of the Opposition pointed out, a contract may be entered into which might be detrimental not only to the farmer but to the potato market as a whole. While it is usually considered that a man should be able to make what contracts he pleases, there should be some amendment to provide that the binding agreement be of the nature described by the hon. member from Souris, namely, that when such potatoes are delivered to the fertilizer dealer they shall be accepted by the mortgagee at the current market price, less a reasonable commission. With such a rider the section would be unobjectionable.

Supports Amendment

Mr. J. A. Campbell. (Fourth Kings) emphasized the position of the farmer who is not in a position to carry on this year. He wished to place himself on record as being strongly in favor of the bill at this particular time. He had opposed it last year, but was in favor of it now because he knew the farmers of the province are "up against it." There were bills passed protecting every other business, but he did not see so many introduced to protect the farmer. This was the purpose of the bill now before the House. He therefore could not agree with the remarks of his party leader, Mr. Lea. Members should not be altogether tied to the apron strings of any party or government; they should express their views and stand up for what they believe to be in the interests of the farmers and laboring classes. "If you shut out a bill of this kind at the present time," Mr. Campbell continued, "you are not protecting the poor man, but you are protecting the man with means, and if there is a poor market next year the rich man will reap the benefit." He believed that in the past the farmers' business has been run too much by outsiders who are not interested in the farmers at all. Farmers should have the privilege of disposing of their own business in the way they saw fit. They should have the liberty of entering into what contracts they pleased. This bill gave them the opportunity of making certain arrangements for the purchase of their fertilizer. It was not compulsory, but it offered an opportunity to poor farmers who might otherwise be unable to obtain fertilizer at all.

Mr. Dennis Suspicious

Mr. Dennis asked if the bill had been requested by the Farmers' Institutes or the Potato Growers' Association.

The promoter said he was unaware of such request having been made.

Mr. Dennis replied that he, too, was anxious to protect the farmers, but experience had taught him in this sinful world that the farmers are exploited by the financial interests and very often these things are undertaken in the most plausible way. He was afraid that "hidden behind this nice project is a subtle matter that may be of injury to the farmers instead of

being to their benefit."

Hon. Mr. MacLean explained that his previous reference was to a particular company. The bill authorizes any company to make arrangements.

Mr. Dennis objected that the bill contained no provision as to the specific agreement to be made. This was giving the business men an opportunity to make whatever agreement they cared to with the farmer, and an undue advantage might thus be taken. Moreover, the farmers were not asking for it, but the business interests apparently were.

Mr. Thane A. Campbell moved the following amendment to the section: "Provided that any such security may be redeemed by the delivery to the mortgagee within (blank) months from the giving thereof of a sufficient quantity of potatoes at the current market price after deducting a commission for the mortgagee not exceeding (blank) per cent of the said price."

Mr. LePage agreed with Mr. Dennis that the bill was being asked for by the dealers in potatoes and fertilizer, and not by the farmers. Some large concern might send a man through the country and contract for a large quantity of seed potatoes at, say, 25 cents. This legislation would make that agreement binding. The agent could then go down to the Southern States and offer those potatoes at a profit in competition with our Potato Growers' Association.

A Member: "They can do that now."

Mr. LePage: "But why should this Government legalize it?" (It was explained later that Government was not introducing the bill, which was of a private nature).

Mr. Cox said the point was that the farmers will not grow potatoes unless there is some guarantee of price. If a price, say, of 20 cents is guaranteed by the dealer, with the assurance that the farmer gets the benefit if the price goes over that figure, he could not see why anyone should raise objection.

Mr. J. A. Campbell said that he did not support this bill because he was falling in his duty. He had not been asked to do so, but he knew the situation and the need that existed for legislation of this kind. The trouble was that the farmers were "a little bit slow" and not sufficiently awake to their own interests. They might take him to task for his stand on this question, but he was talking from his own experience and he had no hesitation in supporting the measure. He doubted whether the other Liberal members who had spoken really understood the present situation. To retain the seed potato market we must grow a superior quality, and we cannot produce quality seed potatoes without fertilizer. The difficulty is that the farmer cannot get fertilizer from the dealers. They cannot carry him over any longer. Our farmers are honest and upright, but the fact is that they cannot meet their obligations. 60 to 70 per cent of them are just struggling to make a living. If they cannot secure commercial fertilizer this year they will have to resort to the old system of stable manure that has been discredited by the inspectors and the Association. If they are forced to do that, then the Association has fallen down on its job. "Give the farmer at this time any chance to buy fertilizer wherever he can get it, and if a few concerns that sell fertilizer are not true to their contracts, there is a way of dealing with them. I do not see that there should be any objection at all to the bill at this particular time," Mr. Campbell concluded.

Not A Monopoly

Mr. Wigmore said there seemed to be some misconception that the bill was creating a monopoly. Personally he could not see any danger from this source that would affect our seed potato market.

Hon. Mr. Sharp said the bill was not a Government measure and should not be discussed from a party standpoint. The condition we find today is that a large number of farmers have pretty well run their course so far as credit is concerned. They owe large sums of money to merchants

and fertilizer companies. It is impossible for them, perhaps, to get further credit to obtain sufficient fertilizer to grow another crop. This bill proposes to give a man the opportunity of making an agreement with a fertilizer company by giving a first lien on his product at a given price. If he is able this year to grow a larger amount than will satisfy the demand of the fertilizer dealer, he will then have a certain amount to pay off his other outstanding bills. "You are simply giving him an opportunity to finance for another year in the hope that prices may be better next year," Mr. Sharp said. "If you refuse him that privilege, then he has simply got to decrease his acreage and use ordinary stable manure."

Mr. Lea said the Liberal Government had introduced a bill for this very purpose and the Opposition had objected to it. The then leader of the Opposition, he said, had opposed it.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "I took no part in that discussion at all."

Predicts Better Year

Mr. Lea said there had been some opposition on that ground. The present year, he thought was a hopeful one for our potato growers. The prospects are that there will be a great reduction in the acreage planted in the United States. A great many large concerns there have gone bankrupt and will be out of business this year. With this in view, and with the losses sustained by planters in the Southern States. It is a very hopeful time for a man to branch out a little and "take a little risk." No company should be given the power to limit the price that our potatoes may be sold for. He did not approve of the argument advanced by Mr. J. A. Campbell on behalf of the farmers making what contracts they pleased. The same argument was made by the men who used to sell eggs ungraded. Had they a right to destroy the reputation of the Island eggs by selling their own product as they pleased? He, Mr. Lea, questioned that right. This bill affects the reputation of Island seed potatoes and we must be careful of that.

Not a Political Question

Hon. Mr. Stewart said he appreciated that the question was one for farmer members to discuss. He simply wished to repeat what his colleague Mr. Sharp had said that this was not a Government measure and should be discussed without any politics entering into the question.

Hon. Mr. Lea: "We realize that."

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "My hon. friends did not seem to realize that fact when they introduced it as a Government measure a year ago. My recollection is that that bill was tabled, but I am sure that I took no part in the discussion. I certainly did not take any political part because there was no politics in it."

Further discussion followed between Mr. Lea and Hon. Mr. Stewart. Mr. Lea said his reference had been to the passing of the Act two years ago, not to the amendment tabled at the last session of the House.

Mr. L. R. Allen said he understood the amendment had been introduced last year as a Government measure by mistake. He, Mr. Allen, was the only member on the Government side who had opposed the measure at that time, and he had been brought to task "very severely" for his opposition. Possibly he was wrong in opposing it last year on general principles, but he felt obliged to oppose this year on the ground that it leaves it open to the farmer, in his anxiety to get fertilizer, to sell his product at less than it costs to produce. If there were any assurance of him realizing the cost of production plus the cost of labor, it would have Mr. Allen's hearty support. As it stands, however, the bill would encourage a man to borrow beyond his ability to pay. He agreed with the Opposition leader that this will be a great year for potatoes.

Mr. J. A. Campbell instanced the difficulty in which some farmers found themselves through inability to meet their notes.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Sharp, the bill was left in committee in order to afford time for further consideration before the House meets after the Easter holidays.

At 1 p. m. the House adjourned, to meet at 3 p. m. on Tuesday, March 29.

FT. WILLIAM 3 CALGARY 0

WINNIPEG, Man., Mar. 24.—Fort William, Thunder Bay champions, who conquered Winnipeg to enter the western Allan Cup final, tonight pounded out a 3-to-0 victory over Calgary's Bronks, far western champions. The Thundering Herd take the

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

ABBIES VS. AMHERST RAMBLERS tonight, game starting at 8.45. Admission 65c, 50c, and 35c. 1707-11

FORUM—Skating with band this afternoon, 2.30 to 4.30. 1707-11

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—BEDEQUE BAPTIST CHURCH—Rev. A. G. Crowe, Pastor, Sunday March 27, 1932, 10.45 Morning worship led by LieRoy Campbell, 11.45 Sunday School, 7.30 Paganat. The Challenge of the Cross.

A GOOD REPUTATION — The latest story about Prince Edward Island says the Eastern Chronicle, of New Glasgow, is that a native in passing on to Heaven, began a search for other Islanders. Finally he found them locked up in a cage. "Why are you locked in?" he asked. "Because they are afraid we will try to get back to the Island," was the reply.

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE—The regular Holy Thursday service was celebrated at St. Dunstan's Basilica yesterday morning. His Excellency Bishop O'Sullivan officiated. He was assisted in the service by Monsignor Maurice MacDonald, Fathers Murphy, MacKenzie, Sullivan, McCarthy and MacMahon.

COUNTY COURT—The Queen's County Court, Judge Duffy presiding, was engaged yesterday with the case of Parker A. Horne vs. James Hardy. This was an action on a promissory note given in payment of a horse, which died shortly after the sale thereof. Judgment was given for \$79.40 in favour of the plaintiff, R. R. Bell for plaintiff and Gilbert Gaudet, K. C., for defendant.

INSPECTION TRIP — Lieut. Col. C. Junket, of the R. C. M. F., left yesterday morning on return to Moncton, after a brief inspection tour in connection with the transfer of the Customs-Excise preventive service to the Mounties. The transfer will take place, Col. Junket states, on April 1, when a similar transfer will take place in other provinces of the Dominion. There are now eight men in this service who will be affected by the change. Some of these will probably retain their position by enlisting in the Mounted Police. This was Col. Junket's first visit here and he was much pleased with what he has seen of Charlottetown. He remarked that the Canadian National Hotel is one of the finest of its size he has ever seen.

The many friends of Mr. Henry Laphorn will be glad to know that he is progressing favorably, after having undergone an operation in the Prince Edward Island Hospital.

WESTERN GUARDIAN

—BUSINESS COLLEGE NOTES—The Summerside Business College has closed for the Easter recess and re-opens on March 29th. Two students, Miss George Campbell and Miss Muriel MacDonald, have successfully finished the two courses, shorthand and bookkeeping.—SS.

COUNTY COURT AT SUMMERSIDE

—When the March sitting of the Court opened, several cases were set down for future dates on account of so many attorneys attending the session of the Legislature. The cases under-mentioned have been set down for the following dates: McKenzie vs. Sonier, 2 April; Matthews vs. Phillips, 29 March; Daly vs. Bell, 13 April; McKenzie vs. McNally, 14 April; Willett Fruit Co. vs. Cameron, 14 April; Holman Ltd. vs. Rennie, 17 May. S.

Petrolle Wins By K. O. Route

(Canadian Press)

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, New York, N. Y., Mar. 24.—Billy Petrolle, veteran Fargo lightweight, battered Christopher "Bat" Battalino into bloody and decisive defeat on a technical knockout in the 12th and last round of their battle before 18,000 fans here tonight. Despite one of the worst beatings ever seen in the Garden, Battalino was still on his feet but terribly punished when Referee Gunboat Smith stopped the duel.

three-goal margin into the second series game here Saturday.

FINAL SESSION OF TEACHERS CONVENTION

Business Meeting including Passing Of Resolutions And Election Of Officers Occupied Attention Of Teachers Thursday Morning.

The final session of the Teachers' Convention opened Thursday morning at 9.30. The minutes of the previous session were adopted as read. Due to the pensions committee having a meeting with the government at 10.30 o'clock, Mr. Miller MacFadyen and Miss Mary Donahoe were appointed to the pensions committee. Mr. Johnson, in order to let the pensions committee know the opinion of the Federation, moved that the government's proposal of a 50 per cent contribution to our pension fund, with a provision of a check up in successive periods of five years be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mr. L. F. MacDonald and carried unanimously.

Mr. Fred Skerry gave the report of finance committee and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson and carried.

The next business to be dealt with was the carrying through of resolutions. Mr. E. J. H. Morrissey, as chairman of the resolutions committee, read the following resolutions:

1.—Resolved that the thanks of this convention be tendered to the Reverend Sisters for the use of their hall for our convention.

2.—To Prof. L. W. Shaw for his two excellent contributions to our program.

3.—To Dr. H. F. Munroe for his practical and most instructive address to last evening.

4.—To Miss Ruby Stewart for her very interesting paper on Tested Methods in Rural Schools.

5.—To the retiring president and members of the executive for the untiring zeal and energy they displayed in carrying out the year's work.

6.—To the Guardian and Patriot for the amount of space and the prominence given the reports of the previous sessions of our convention.

Whereas it is imperative for a teacher to have many outside helps, additional text, book, books of references, magazines, etc., etc.

Whereas the expense incurred thereby by the teachers is considerable.

Be it, therefore, resolved that the Superintendent of Education when notifying secretaries of annual school meetings urge upon them the necessity of making a minimum annual grant of not less than ten dollars for this purpose.

Whereas several districts are in arrears with teachers supplement, and

Whereas efforts have been made in some cases to induce inexperienced teachers to accept less than what their contract calls for.

Therefore resolved that the policy of this Federation of furnishing free legal advice to all teachers be continued and that teachers who have not received their full supplement for the year on the last day of school be urged to place their case in the hands of the Federation Counsel.

Whereas there is at present an oversupply of teachers in the province of P. E. I. and

Whereas there are many certified teachers unable to obtain employment

Therefore resolved that the government be petitioned to discontinue the issuance of licenses of the third class and also of permits.—Carried.

Resolved that the licenses of all female (married) teachers be cancelled unless they have not other means of support.—Carried.

Resolved that arrangements be made whereby all teachers now teaching be required to take a normal training course in a summer school within a reasonable time provided that a summer school be established on P. E. I.—Carried.

Resolved that certificates of all teachers who have been away from the teaching profession for five consecutive years or more be not received until such time as the said teachers take a full year of normal training.—Carried.

Resolved that all applicants for entrance to normal school be required to undergo a thorough medical examination and that applicants be not accepted who fall below a set standard.—Carried.

Resolved that the Minister of Education be petitioned to make such changes as would be necessary for

Far Surpasses The Average Teas

"SALADA" TEA

"Fresh from the Gardens"

REORGANIZATION

(Continued from Page 1)

the implementation of the larger administrative units of the rural schools of this Province.—Carried.

Quite lively discussions were had on some of these resolutions, in which Messrs. Jelly, Lowther, MacDonald and many others took part.

After the business of resolutions was completely dealt with, Mr. Johnson reported that the pensions committee had met the Minister of Education this morning and he assured the teachers that the pension scheme would immediately come into effect.

The election of officers for the coming year was then held, and Mr. C. B. Jelly, chairman of the nomination committee, read the following report:

President—Mr. Elmer Pineau, Tignish.

Vice President: Miss Agnes Clements, Spring Park.

Secretary Treasurer: Gordon Bennett, St. Eleanors.

C. T. F. Delegate: Miss Jacqueline MacDonald.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

After the session the new executive held a meeting to discuss matters concerning the Federation. The attendance at this year's convention was larger than last year's.

mission, until the report had been given much further consideration.

Establishment of a new Provincial Board of Education to direct all branches of the system, is recommended. The county unit, with equalization of taxation for school purposes, is suggested as the basis of the new administration plan. Creation of a tax commission in this connection also is suggested. For home study and school courses it is recommended that an advisory board on texts and curricula be established.

Reorganization of the Department of French at the Provincial Normal School is recommended to provide for the increased demand for teachers of both French and English. Another recommendation is that French grammar and composition be subjects of the entrance examination for all candidates who wish to qualify for a special certificate for teaching the French language. It is recommended that book teaching for French children in the first two grades be given in French, and other suggestions in favor of increased use of French in common and high schools.

The commission was under the chairmanship of the Superintendent of Education, and had twenty other members, including Dr. George J. Trueman, President of Mount Allison University; Rev. Dr. H. A. Vanier, President, C. S. Joseph's University; Dr. H. V. B. Bridges, Fredericton; S. W. Palmer, police magistrate of Saint George R. Melvin, Saint John, representing Labor; W. K. Tibert, Fredericton, director of vocational education; R. W. Maxwell, Woodstock, representing agricultural schools, and Judge John A. Barry, County Court, Saint John.

THE YOUNGEST

(Continued from Page 1)

seat before the close of the present session. The seat was left vacant by the death of J. F. Buckley, killed in a traffic accident near St. Paul last November.

The member-elect is the first Conservative to win in Athabaska constituency.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 24.—Percy G. Davies, who redeemed the constituency of Athabaska for the Conservative party in the recent by-election, will take his seat in the House of Commons between April 10 and 17.

The date is contingent upon the speed with which the return of the returning officer at Athabaska reaches the chief electoral officer at Ottawa.

March 28 is declaration day in Athabaska, although a telegram received by the Government today suggested that there might be some difficulty in gathering all ballot boxes from the 219 polls by Monday next. Following the formal declaration of the returning officer at Athabaska, he must hold all ballot boxes for six days in case of a recount. No possibility exists of a recount in this election; so that on expiry of the six days to conform with the provisions of the election act the ballot boxes are shipped to the chief electoral officer at Ottawa, who promptly notifies the clerk of the house, Arthur Beauchemin. With the filing of these requirements, Mr. Davies can immediately take his seat.

PICTURE OF

(Continued from Page 1)

Tennessee, Kentucky and South Carolina, there was time to begin an accounting of the physical damage wrought. The surveys showed a picture of desolation around the storm centres, with estimates of loss jumping into millions of dollars.

Alabama, where there were 296 known dead, was the centre of relief activity, with another concentration in the ravaged district of North Georgia. That state counted 38 dead. Florida and nearby areas in Tennessee where 18 were killed also were being surveyed. Three were killed in South Carolina and two in Kentucky.

Stone J. Crane, general field representative of the Red Cross, described deplorable conditions upon his return to Atlanta after a survey through Madison and Clark counties in Georgia. He found fifty-six houses demolished and thirteen partially wrecked in a strip approximately ten miles long and four hundred yards wide.

Physicians, state health department forces and Red Cross workers have set up head quarters in the various storm centres as well as refugee concentration camps to prevent the spread of disease.

One of the major problems presented by the disaster is housing for the homeless with conservative estimates of their number ranging from 7,000 upward in Alabama alone.

DE VALERA'S

(Continued from Page 1)

the Oath of Allegiance to the crown and payment of the Irish land annuities, both of which De Valera proposes to abolish.

In quarters usually well informed it was said De Valera intends to advance the argument that it is the oath as contained in the Irish constitution adopted by the Coesgrave Government which he is attacking, and not the oath in the treaty signed at the time the Free State was established.

According to his view, it was said, the treaty does not make the oath obligatory but the constitution does. Therefore his quarrel is not with the treaty but with the constitution.

One of his points with reference to the land annuities was said to be that Northern Ireland is allowed to withhold them and therefore the Free State should receive the same treatment. The land annuities are collected from Irish farmers in repayment of loans made for their account so they could buy out their landlords when the Free State was set up. Herebefore they have been remitted to Great Britain at the rate of \$15,000,000 a year.

"I don't see growing older as slipping down the hill, but really as climbing up."—Geraldine Farrar.

DEATHS

MONAGHAN—At the residence of his son, Amos, North Wilshire, Charles Monaghan, in his 95th year. Remains will be taken to his late residence, Kelly's Cross Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Funeral Monday morning.

MCNEVIN — At the residence of her niece, Miss Florence McDonald, 2A Stewart St., Mrs. Edward McNevin, aged 80 years. A short funeral service was held at her late residence Thursday evening at 8.45. Funeral took place Friday morning at 8.30 by the train to St. John's Cemetery.