

THE MARKETING BILL PUT THROUGH COMMITTEE STAGE

(Continued from page two)

same machine had been sold to the government of Nova Scotia through an agent in Halifax for a flat \$2,000.

HON. MR. STEWART: "Do you say that it was the same kind of a machine?"

MR. DYSART said he had made the statement and it was based on the invoice obtained from the Hon. Minister's department.

HON. MR. STEWART: "You do not know that the machine is of the same type".

Catalogue Prices

MR. DYSART said that the invoices were given to him in the Department of Public Works. He had received a catalogue of prices and had taken the matter up with Custom's officers and railway agents with the view of ascertaining what amount of duty and freight had been paid. From what he had learned, he was satisfied that the price paid was too high and it stood as a blot on the fair name of the province. The responsibility was upon the shoulders of the Hon. Minister of Public Works. While he (Dysart) did not intend to labor the point, he was satisfied that for the machinery sold to this government a price had been charged 20 per cent in excess of that sold to the Nova Scotia government, and he was satisfied the agent who had sold the machinery in Halifax made a reasonable profit of 20 per cent.

Too Much Spread

Taking the statement of the Hon. Mr. Minister made in the House on a previous occasion, it was evident that there had been too much spread. On the basis of the quantity of machinery purchased he was satisfied that the province had lost the sum of \$200,000. His estimate had been based on the cost of American machinery and he would admit that he was not so familiar with the price of the Canadian made product. He was satisfied that the Nova Scotia Government had purchased machinery for 20 per cent less than had the Hon. Minister of Public Works.

HON. MR. STEWART: "That is not correct".

Is Far Astray

MR. DYSART: "You have no right to make that statement."

HON. MR. STEWART said on a point of order he had asked the hon. member if the machinery he had referred to was the same kind as had been sold in New Brunswick and he could not give the information. It was ridiculous for him to say that Nova Scotia had purchased road machinery for \$200,000 less than had been paid in New Brunswick as all knew that the price was the same in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. His hon. friend was as far astray as he could be.

MR. DYSART said that if the catalogue carried the machines as Numbers 10 and 14, they would be identical in each province.

HON. MR. STEWART said that might be true providing each machine had the same equipment.

An Alleged Difference

MR. DYSART said that if there had been extra equipment bought with the machines the invoice should show it. He had in his hand the invoice of F. W. Smyth, who had sold the machinery to the government and the price was \$2,500 for a road grader. Nothing whatever was said about extras. He had another invoice from the same man for an Adams leaning wheel grader which had cost \$3,600, whereas in Nova Scotia one had been bought for \$2,900 and he believed it to be the identical type of machine.

HON. MR. LEGER: "They are not identical".

HON. MR. STEWART: "Will you be good enough to give us the dates?"

MR. DYSART said that the machine was bought by the Nova Scotia government in 1923 and in New Brunswick in 1930. He was certain that it was the same character of machine as shown in the catalogue. He held that the government owed it to the country to have the whole matter investigated.

Moves Amendment

MR. DYSART then moved, seconded by Mr. Leger the following amendment to the motion before the House:

"That all words following the word 'that' in the motion now before the House be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"Whereas, the progress and well being of our people depends upon our basic industries,—agriculture, lumbering, mining and fishing and the constantly increasing debt load is gravely affecting those engaged therein as well as the various municipalities by reason of the inability of large numbers to pay their tax bills;

"And, whereas, the economic conditions prevailing in New Brunswick have seriously handicapped these basic industries and impaired the earning capacity of those engaged therein and no real improvement is possible until those who work for a livelihood are able to obtain greater returns for their labor;

"Therefore, in the opinion of this House any capital expenditures during the present year should be in connection and by putting agriculture, lumbering, mining and fishing on a sound economic basis and rendering those engaged therein self-sustaining, to create for our Province a real and permanent asset; and that it is inappropriate to embark during the present year on a new program of permanent road construction under which the monies spent, instead of going into the pockets of our own people will largely go out of the Province for machinery, materials and supplies."

HON. MR. STEWART moved the adjournment of the debate.

It being six o'clock Hon. Mr. Speaker left the Chair to resume at eight p.m.

EVENING SESSION

The House resumed at 8 o'clock, and resolved itself into committee, with Mr. Atkinson in the chair.

The Bill to promote the production and marketing of natural products was taken into consideration.

MR. DOUCET said that although he was not opposed to the principle of the bill, he was not greatly in favor of the marketing board because it was largely a duplication of services. For the most part today we could sell at market prices, and he did not believe the Marketing Board could do much better. At the recent meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, it had been stated we should produce more. The proposed board could not be otherwise than a duplication of services unless they reduced the staffs of the Departments.

Some Criticism

MR. RICHARD (Kent) did not feel that the government should embark on such an expensive thing as a marketing board. The province was not producing enough to supply its own demand. He believed we had a market right in this Province for all our products. If any assistance was to be given to farmers, it was up to the department of agriculture to supply a better market. He thought the fishermen along the Northumberland Strait were receiving a fair price under the present conditions and he did not see how a marketing board could get any better. The same statement would apply to lumber. It should be the duty of the Lands and Mines Department to look after better markets for lumber. He did not favor the appointment of a marketing board.

Approves Action

MR. GROOM said the minister of Agriculture and the Lands and Mines departments had not sufficient time to gather information in connection with better marketing conditions. He felt that their time was pretty well occupied at present, and if they were required to devote their time to finding remarks, larger staffs would be required. He would remind the Committee that Great Britain had a marketing board, and it would be found it was one of the best departments for the promotion of industry in that country. So far as this province was concerned, it was not so much the quantity of produce as it was the quality produced. He believed that with the proper marketing board, we could put our fruits for instance on our own markets, instead of purchasing as we did today much of the fruit from other countries. With regard to the fish, the fishermen along the Bay of Fundy had been agitating for some assistance in marketing for some time, and he knew that the fishermen in his county would be very glad of any help along this line. A marketing board, he felt, could be of great assistance in finding markets where fish could be sold to advantage. The same could be applied to the farming industry. We could produce as good products in this province as in any part of the world, but the small manufacturers and producers could not compete successfully with larger concerns which could afford to put travellers on the road to sell their goods.

Mr. Guptill

MR. GUPTILL considered this marketing bill the most important legislation that had been before the House for many years. In order for any fishing country to be prosperous, it was necessary for the fishing industry to have a proper market. They were not so much interested in this province in production as they were in having a good market. Adaptability to production and grading of products, as well as transportation and the regulating of the flow of produce, were important features in profitable marketing. He was particularly interested in a more profitable market for the fishing industry. Gentlemen opposite from Northumberland and Kent seemed to be well satisfied with the prices their fishermen were receiving for their fish.

HON. MR. TILLEY—"That's not what they say in Caraquet and Shippegan."

Work to be Done

MR. GUPTILL believed a great deal could be accomplished for the fishing industry along the North Shore by the establishment of cold storage plants, and a marketing board might help out in this regard. The board might also assist in profitably utilizing fish by-products now going to waste. He doubted that the fishing industry along the North Shore had been fully developed. He knew that along the Bay of Fundy the fishermen were not able to pay expenses, from the prices they were receiving. There seemed to be too much of a spread between the prime producer and the actual consumer, and he would like to see a marketing board to investigate that branch of the industry. He wanted the fishermen to get a fair price and he also wanted the consumer to get his fish cheaper than he was today. He was quite certain that a marketing board properly constituted to investigate the conditions would be of considerable advantage all round. He believed in the development of the domestic market, and he also saw an opportunity of doubling and trebling our sale of fish in the West Indies with the assistance of a proper marketing board. It might take three or four years to get any great results from the marketing board, and he would not disturb present channels of trade, but gradually develop new markets.

A Brain Trust

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) quite agreed that fishermen on the North Shore wanted more information as to how their conditions might be improved. He thought the members opposite had misinterpreted remarks of some of the members on the opposition side. Members of the opposition favored seeking out more information, but it

was contended there would be a duplication of services in the creation of a marketing board. If more information was required in regard to agriculture that department should gather it, without the necessity of setting up a commission to do the work. The same held true with respect to the other departments. From reading the bill and from what the Premier had said, he gathered that this proposed board was a sort of a brain trust such as President Roosevelt had created. He did not want the idea to do out that his side of the House was against marketing products and assisting the farming, lumbering and fishing industries, but they did not want a board set up to do the work the departments should be doing.

HON. MR. TILLEY said he could show the hon. gentleman from Gloucester letters by the dozens from the people of Caraquet and Shippegan asking for assistance in getting better prices for their fish.

MR. RICHARD, continuing, said he thought the fishermen along the Northumberland Strait were getting a fair price considering the market conditions.

MR. SIDDALL

MR. SIDDALL said he spoke as a farmer and on behalf of the farmers, and he congratulated the government for introducing a bill the farmers had been asking for during the last ten years. The farmers had not been raising more produce because they could not get a fair price for it. He could assure them that the farmers would supply the produce if they could realize a fair price for it. For the last ten years they had been asking the government to find markets for their farm produce. It was all tommy-rot to expect the Departments to go out and find the markets. The Agricultural Department was assisting in the way of production and he felt a marketing board would be a contact between the producer and the consumer to sell the produce of the farmers to the best advantage. He had stood up, he said, in this committee to thank the government for answering the prayers of the farmers and dairymen who had been asking for just such assistance as could be given by a marketing board properly functioning.

MR. MOORE'S VIEW

MR. MOORE said the opposition members were trying to befog the issue by mixing up departmental duties with the work proposed for the Board to be created under this bill.

The Department of Agriculture was manned presumably to encourage production and its officials appeared to be very busy. If these officials had time it would not be expected they had the business training which would make a market board effective. As he understood this bill, it was an effort to bridge the wide chasm now existent between the producer and the consumer. While the Province at present did not begin to produce enough of some agricultural products to supply the needs of consumers in the Province, yet under present conditions it was very difficult for the farmer to sell his goods. The wholesale dealer in farm products bought where he could buy the easiest. He knew what his trade demanded and about how much. As trade was organized at present he could get produce with much less trouble by ordering through commercial travellers who called on him almost daily offering just what quality, grade and quantity he wanted. There was no contact between that wholesaler and the individual farmer who was not in a position to ship him, except in small quantities and the wholesaler by experience had found that in buying from a large number of farmers he got an equally large number of quality. Many of them got what his trade demanded and to get rid of what his trade did not want he had trouble and expense and very poor returns for himself, with very little for the farmer. At the same time, he said, he believed there was scarcely a householder in the Province who did not feel that he or she would like to get New Brunswick products.

N. B. Apples

Take the case of apples, he said. There were commercial productions in New Brunswick of around thirty-eight thousand barrels, with a large quantity grown in small orchards, distributed by peddlers and truckmen or sold by the growers in their immediate vicinity. He had consulted a wholesale fruit dealer as to how many barrels of apples were consumed in the New Brunswick market. This man had said he estimated 42,000 barrels. About eight thousand of these were produced in New Brunswick and 28 thousand brought from Nova Scotia, the balance coming from elsewhere. Why, he asked, did this situation exist. There was no question about the quality of New Brunswick apples being superior to those grown anywhere else in the world. He believed a properly constituted marketing board

could remedy this anomalous and what was true of apples was true of every other product we imported. He thought it was well that the bill referred specifically to dairy products because he found among dealers in Saint John that only Sussex creamery butter was recognized as of standard high quality. Why should not the other creameries of the Province be brought into line, up to the Sussex standard and avoid the buying of creamery butter from other provinces. In his opinion there was lots of work for the Department of Agriculture to do and if all its divisions had been as successful as that of poultry, agriculture would be in a better position and he wished to commend the Superintendent, Mr. Leslie Wood, for his good work. He thought if the opposition wished to make this bill a political issue they would not help the cause of their party. In his own county, at least, he found his Liberal friends as enthusiastic about its provisions as men who had been his supporters.

DR. JEWETT

MR. JEWETT said this bill was what had been called for for a long time. He found there was no trouble to get produce if the farmer could be reasonably assured of being able to sell his products at a price above cost of production. For instance, if a farmer was assured he would get from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per barrel for potatoes, there would be scarcely any limit to the quantity that would be grown in the potato growing districts. The opposition said the bill was not specific but, he asked, what could be more specific than to say it was to enable the profitable marketing of farm products. He thought it was the best bill of the Session and stood at the base of future prosperity.

MR. TWEEDIE said he was not against the principle of the bill, but in common with his colleagues thought the departments could do the work or at least start it and he did not believe that the House was justified at this time in creating an avenue for the expenditure of large sums of money.

MR. COLPITTS said he was greatly surprised at the attitude of government members. It had been impossible since 1930 for a farmer to sell anything in this Province and he did not believe the proposed board could accomplish anything. As a considerable farmer himself, he had never got one cent worth of help from the Department of Agriculture and if it were done away with tomorrow the farmers of New Brunswick would raise just

as large crops of as good quality as they had ever done.

Others Comment

MR. ANDERSON said he could not subscribe to the policy of setting up a board with such wide regulatory powers as this bill involved. We had a good example of the danger in the Workmen's Compensation Board, which had lately enforced a regulation which was increasing the cost of operation of small industries, at least 100 per cent, and would drive the small operator out of business.

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) did not like the provision in the bill dividing its cost up between two Departments.

HON. MR. TILLEY said he rather agreed with his hon. friend that the board should stand on its own feet, but the government felt that in the experimental stage, when the economical amount that could be spent on it was not known the better way at first would be to divide the cost according to the work done for each department. Answering Mr. Doucet, he said he could not tell the committee just what the cost would be. Experience would show what work had to be taken up. His idea at present was that no great expense would be incurred this year. The board would be asked to sit as occasion demanded on a per diem allowance.

MR. TOWNLEY said he was in favor of making every effort to get markets, but he thought the departments, as organized at present, could do the work with half the cost for help and office expenses that the proposed board would require and he also thought the power given to the board was dangerous.

MR. PERRY said he only rose to his feet in response to the call for a practical farmer's opinion. He had been a farmer all his life and this bill was what the farmers had been asking for for years and he believed that they would benefit from it more than any other class. On behalf of the farmers of Carleton County he wished to thank the government for preparing and introducing the bill.

The bill passed the Committee without division and was ordered reported to the House.

The committee next took up the consideration of a bill to amend the Incorporations Tax Act and to impose sessional taxes on banks and certain companies.

HON. MR. LEGER explained that it was simply a re-enactment of an Act passed in 1932 which was to run for

(Continued on page 5)

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada

THE report of the Company for 1933 is one of consistent and constructive progress. Its achievements enhance the impressive record of public service it has rendered during the sixty-three years of its existence.

In 1933, as in the preceding three years, people generally experienced exceptional anxiety, the result of incomes being either impaired or entirely cut off. At such a time the unfailing aid and security of life insurance proved of very great value.

In this service the Sun Life Company bore a worthy share. During the year it paid out (exclusive of policy loans) nearly \$100,000,000 to policyholders and beneficiaries. Similarly, during the four years of depression it has paid out over \$380,000,000.

Notwithstanding these substantial payments, the Company, during the same four-year period, increased its assets by \$55,000,000—its insurances in force by over \$307,000,000.

Sixty-third Annual Report—1933

ASSURANCES IN FORCE, December 31, 1933	\$2,770,453,871
This large amount, the accumulating estates of nearly a million Sun Life policyholders, will become payable to them or their dependents during this generation—a stabilizing factor of great social and economic value.	
NEW ASSURANCES PAID FOR	216,567,441
INCOME	152,235,821
DISBURSEMENTS	127,505,801
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER DISBURSEMENTS	24,730,020
PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES:	
During the year 1933	97,457,059
Since Organization	800,170,033
ASSETS	624,146,035
Bonds: government, municipal, public utility and others; stocks, preferred and common; loans on mortgages; real estate; loans on Company policies; cash in banks, and other assets.	
LIABILITIES	609,965,832
Almost nine-tenths of this sum represents the policy reserve—the amount set aside to guarantee all policy payments as they become due.	
PAID-UP CAPITAL (\$2,000,000) and balance at credit of shareholders' account	\$3,342,547
RESERVE for depreciation—in mortgages and real estate	4,885,904
SURPLUS	5,951,752
	\$14,180,203

The valuation of bonds and stocks has been made on the basis prescribed for all companies by the Insurance Department of the Dominion of Canada and in conformity with the basis authorized by the Departments of Insurance of the various provinces of Canada. Policy liabilities have been valued by the full net level premium method, a standard more exacting than required under the stringent provisions of the Dominion Insurance Act.

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada