

that provision was in the old Act, but evidently a strong attempt is being made to introduce it into this Bill. I have nothing to say against the honesty of the packer. He leaves his men out in the yard, and they fix the price. The man with the truck goes home and hands the proceeds to the poor fellow on the farm, who thinks he has got the market price for his cattle. He may have in some cases, but, having had many years' experience in various stockyards, I may inform honourable members that the best market we ever had was when the gates were thrown open and the buyers were allowed to go into the yards to do business.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: Now, if you wanted to buy cattle for export, you would find it impossible to go into the stockyards for the purpose. I remember when, a few weeks ago, I wanted to buy a few loads of cattle for export. The salesman had twelve loads, of which only two loads were fit for export. I said, "I will buy those two loads of cattle from you." He said: "Harry, I cannot sell those cattle to you. I have twelve loads, and if I sold those two loads I should be stuck with the rest." A situation like that is an appalling menace to the most important industry in the country. Only to-day I heard a man from the dried-out area in the southern country state that he sold five cattle for \$450, and that was the only thing that carried him through.

Many times in the other House I have directed attention to the importance of our live stock industry. Now that I have retired from the live stock business, I feel that I should still do my best to look after its interests. This proposed clause, I think, is the most iniquitous that could be inserted in any bill dealing with live stock. The honourable member from Peel knows that just as well as I do. He would never let a trucker with no knowledge of live stock take his cattle into a packer's stockyard and let the packer fix the price. I waited patiently for him to mention that under this Bill a packing plant is given the status of a stockyard, but he evaded that point. In the previous Act there is no provision for a packing plant yard, and in the old days stock was not going into the yards as it does to-day. There are various reasons for this change. The trucker can come in with the live stock during the night, accept the price offered to him by the packer, and get back home the same day.

I am strongly opposed to this Bill, and I ask the House not to pass it while it contains this iniquitous clause, which, as I have said, is

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most detrimental to the producer. In the early days there was active trading in live stock. To-day these regulations are stifling the live stock business. It is not the same now as it was years ago, when everything was wide open.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: In the early days there were many small buyers doing business on a capital of \$4,000 or \$5,000. To-day a man must put up \$10,000 as security before he is allowed to operate on the stockyards. This, it is said, is a protection to the man shipping live stock. Well, let me say that in the days of the old yards on Strachan avenue in the city of Toronto no shipper ever lost a dollar in his dealings with cattle buyers; but since the regulations have been in effect some dealers have defaulted and the poor shipper has received nothing for his product. We want no regulations in the stockyards. Throw the gates wide open and let the men who have any money buy the live stock. If a shipper sells his live stock to a man who does not pay him, it is his own fault, for he can lock the gates and say to the caretaker of the stockyard, "Don't deliver my cattle until I tell you they have been paid for." There was never any monopoly in cattle, but down through the years there has been a monopoly in hogs, and it has brought wealth to some persons. It was only when a few buyers came up from Montreal that the monopoly was broken for the time being.

I repeat, I am strongly opposed to the Bill in its present form, and I ask the House not to pass it without deleting the section which permits packers to have a stockyard right at their plant.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: There is no reason why the Bill should not go to a committee, if that would meet the views of the honourable member from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins).

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: Yes, I am willing that it should go to a committee.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This Bill also is long; its length is its only dimension. It will never have any repercussions beyond this planet. The Bill might have been put into three pages. It re-enacts the Act of 1923 and makes some changes. I will not say these are wholly unimportant; indeed some of them are worth while; but there was no need whatever of re-enacting the legislation. Anyone who reads the three explanatory notes, each two inches long, will see the accomplishment is next to trivial. I do not know about