

men directly under the control of the Government, and that is exactly where they ought to be. That being the case, I consider that sections 3 and 4 are not only superfluous, but detrimental. While the minister, I suppose, has made up his mind on this subject, I wish to make my most emphatic protest against those sections establishing live stock exchanges at those stock yards, as they will be close corporations, the purpose of which, in the nature of things, will be to work in the interest of those who comprise them and against the interest of the producers.

Mr. WRIGHT: The other evening when the Minister Agriculture introduced this Bill, I suggested that it should be turned over to the Agricultural Committee for consideration. I believe to-day the suggestion was a wise one, and I understand the Bill was fully threshed out before that committee—unfortunately I was unable to be present. The live stock interests in this country are to-day so great that they deserve and should receive every attention from the Government. The Bill as introduced by the minister is in the right direction. The hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) asks that sections 3 and 4 should be struck out. I would draw his attention to one fact;—had this Bill been in force, I believe it would have been unnecessary to say what I am about to say. That exchange is to-day financially bankrupt and is appealing for funds. Had this Bill been in force, had the department been able to exercise their rights, this would not have happened. Whilst hon. gentlemen opposite have every right to criticise and it is their province to criticise, I think they should withdraw all opposition to this Bill and allow it to go through as printed, with the addition of the amendments suggested by the minister.

Mr. OLIVER: I have stated my objections and do not intend to press them further. There was just one other thing I wished to point out, namely, that as the Bill stands there is no security provided to the producer of cattle, the man who sells cattle to the commission merchant. All the security that any body has is the provision that the stock association shall be satisfied that the commission merchant is reliable. That is to some extent a safeguard, but it is not security. There would be no less security if only such buyers operated on the stock yards as the minister saw fit to license, as provided under section 5, and we would be just as well satisfied that the commission merchants licensed by the minister directly would meet

[Mr. Oliver.]

their obligations as we would in regard to those who are admitted to membership in a live stock exchange as being men of character and repute. There is no guarantee to the seller in the provisions of this Bill as there is in the provisions of the Grain Act under similar circumstances.

Mr. NESBITT: My hon. friend has pointed out a weakness in the Bill. I do not like section 5, because really the exchanges ought to be held responsible in some way. Nobody should be specially licensed by the minister as a commission merchant on an exchange without the consent of the exchange, and the exchange should be held responsible for such commission merchant.

Mr. BURRELL: While I quite appreciate what the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) says, I am sorry I cannot agree with him, for this reason: I think we have absolute control, and there is entire safety provided under these sections for the producers and sellers of live stock, because of the evidence of integrity and the security which has to be offered to the exchanges who will run this business under our supervision. Before a live stock exchange can do any of these things, we have to be absolutely satisfied with their constitution and by-laws, to ensure that they will carry on their business properly.

Our regulations cover all these points, and if there is any trouble or any difficulty, or if there is any complaint made of abuses such as my hon. friend anticipates we would have the right to close up that exchange and issue special licenses to commission men to do business notwithstanding the fact that the live stock exchange was closed. I do not think that sections 4 and 5 can be withdrawn. I may say this Bill was gone over very carefully with men who are very keenly appreciative of difficulties such as my hon. friend suggests. One of the men who most strongly urged this feature of the Bill was Dr. Rutherford, whom my hon. friend knows well. Dr. Rutherford is President of the Western Live Stock Union and was formerly Veterinary Director General. I feel certain he is as familiar as any man living with stock conditions in the West. The Saskatchewan Government appointed a live stock commission to examine these conditions, and they laid very great stress on the same points. These clauses were drafted after consultation with various people who know the conditions thoroughly, and after consultation with our own officers. I therefore think I should hardly