

Prairie Provinces there was no other means of transporting and handling the grain except that provided by some men who invested their capital in this enterprise under the sanction of the law. With the development of the West—which we are all pleased to see—we find that the farmers and the people who are settled on the prairies have attained a better position, and they feel that they should receive all the advantage possible from the growing and handling of the product which they raise. Nobody quarrels with that idea. So far as I am able to gather from what I have heard, there is an attempt to take from certain people what they had before—that in the past two or three years there has been a change with regard to the handling of grain owing to the acquisition by the pool of a very large proportion of the grain-handling facilities. Notwithstanding all the doleful tales that we have heard about the miseries and hardships of the people of the West, they are now in a position to expend some of their money in providing these facilities, and perhaps they desire to acquire some of the income of those people who originally invested their capital during the early years. While we desire to give the farmers every possible advantage from the growing of grain and the other products of the prairie, speaking for myself, I do not want to perpetrate an injustice on the people who under the law of the country invested their capital in the first instance to facilitate the handling of grain when there was no other way of handling it. For this reason I am in accord with the amendment of the honourable gentleman from Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird).

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: It seems to me somewhat unfortunate that the names of persons either for or against this Bill should have been mentioned in this House. It is an unusual thing. This Bill has been before this House for a considerable time, and we have had every opportunity of considering it both before the Banking and Commerce Committee and in the House for some days past.

As to the Bill itself, I might say that at the outset I was in favour of it, and I still favour the principle of the Bill. I feel that the farmers of Western Canada who produce grain by their own toil should have every opportunity of marketing it to the very best advantage. On the other hand, it is contended that certain interests will be disturbed by the passage of this Bill.

I am not going into any details, because the Bill has been discussed in every shape and form, from every standpoint. I have come to the conclusion that under the

amendment of the honourable gentleman from Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird) there is a possible chance of matters so adjusting themselves during a period of say one year, as to enable both parties to come together and so arrange that no hardship will be imposed upon anyone. I think that we should eliminate altogether the feeling of any outsiders, and view this Bill from the standpoint of the general interest. Let us deal with this matter on its own merits. These are my views on the question.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, one cannot discuss this amendment without thinking of the other one which will follow. This amendment recognizes the principle contained in the Bill, and accepts the point of view of the farmer who claims that he should have the right to select his own terminal elevator, but limits that right to a year; and the amendment tells the trade that this concession is made to the pool members because there is added to it an obligation on the pool to buy a certain number of their elevators in the country.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: No, there is no obligation at all.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: There is an obligation on the grain trade to sell, but no obligation on the pool to buy.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No, but the pool will only get this legislation by Order in Council if it buys those elevators. That is the question I put to my honourable friend from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson), and he said that certainly the Order in Council or proclamation would not issue if the pool did not buy elevators at those various points. I do not know how many they are to buy; is it a thousand?

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Then I read the amendment wrongly. I understood that it referred only to section 1 of the Bill, and did not refer to the second amendment at all. The Act does not come into force until proclamation by Order in Council. That does not apply to the second amendment proposed by the honourable member for Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird).

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But the two amendments stand together, and form part of the whole scheme. The transfer of the authority of Parliament to the Governor in Council is for the purpose of having the three pools give a fair deal in the purchase of the thousand elevators that they will need at the points where they have no elevators, and I am told that these powers given to the Gov-