

Mr. WARREN: There is one thing the farmer is not fond of doing and that is paying more money for anything than he would otherwise have to pay.

Mr. HOMUTH: That is what he will have to do under this act.

Mr. WARREN: It may be all right for farmers in the districts of Brant or Waterloo South where they probably use a great deal of artificial fertilizer. But in districts where they are just beginning to use artificial fertilizer and perhaps find a great difficulty of disposing of one carload in a season, what will this mean? You just start competition. I am not very much accustomed to artificial fertilizer, but I was surprised that during the war years that was one thing that our farmers were able to buy at a very moderate price, and it was not hard to dispose of a carload or perhaps two carloads in a district where its use was comparatively new. I think it has been remarkably well handled and there has been encouragement to the farmers to use fertilizer to the benefit of crops of all kinds. Speaking for the district that I live in and, I think, for all Renfrew county, I would say that we are very much better satisfied to have this clause left in, in order to keep out competition and to keep the price to a point where the farmer can buy fertilizer.

Mr. HOMUTH: It is a great thing to hear the free trade Liberal talk about keeping out competition. As the hon. member for Brant has said, it does not matter what industrial organization you have, they are going out to sell the product which is most suited to the people who will use it; and the sooner you can get competition in your district on fertilizer, the sooner you will get fertilizer at a price which is conducive to the production of better crops and which is much cheaper than what you have been paying, instead of having your farmers in Renfrew county being told by the Department of Agriculture, and incidentally not only by the department but by the minister himself under these powers that we have been giving them day after day and year after year, what to buy and what they have to buy, whether it produces more competition or not.

Mr. WARREN: May I ask the hon. member this question; has he no confidence whatever in the officials of the federal government or the provincial government?

Mr. HOMUTH: That is just what I wanted. I may have a lot of confidence in the men who have grown up in the various

departments of government; but those men who have grown up in the departments of government over a long period of years have had their claws clipped so far as doing anything for the benefit of the people of this country is concerned, and bureaucracy has come into control. The ministers of this cabinet today, as the Prime Minister said this afternoon, are a little inner cabinet and are going to do these things and the people of this country can be damned because they are not going to learn anything about them.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I want to ask the minister a question, and I think he will agree with me. I am going to ask him to look at section 7 again, just to see if it does not violate his own definition of what the powers of the dominion government may be. It will be noticed it says he may "make regulations prescribing the chemical, physical or other properties of fertilizers for use in any province or other zone of Canada." We will let that rest for the moment. Then it goes on to say:

... or for any crop or soil requirement and prohibiting the sale and the advertising, offering, exposing or holding in possession for sale in such province or zone. . .

That is not interprovincial trade; that is not export; that is not anything coming within the marketing act decision. Now I ask the minister whether he thinks the dominion government has authority to prescribe, we will say, what the constituents shall be for something manufactured and sold within the province of British Columbia. In my judgment, that is purely within the provincial right, and the dominion has no right in that field at all.

Mr. GARDINER: The ingredients mentioned all through this act, and the only ingredients that are affected by it, I think, are potash, phosphate and nitrates. Where a mixture of these is used in order to make up the fertilizer, then this act deals with it. I think I am right when I say that up to the present all our potash has come from outside Canada, and that applies also to some of the other ingredients. I doubt that it would be possible to make up most of the mixtures that are made up at present except by bringing in products from outside. I just want to point out to those who are speaking with regard to the powers given the minister—

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Are you through with my question?

Mr. GARDINER: I may come back to it, but at the moment I want to take up this other point. This section of the act is written