

situated on the spot than by the authority at Ottawa. We are not attempting under this legislation to deal with these local matters.

Mr. BARBER: The federal government, through the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Trade and Commerce, might however be of great help, because when we talk about a surplus, that includes a large number of by-products which are for export only, a very small quantity being used in the province. I refer to such commodities as condensed milk, milk powder, casein and a good many other by-products which are there to-day and cannot be disposed of. That is a problem which in my opinion is up to the federal government. It is for the departments here to assist these people in marketing their products.

Mr. GARDINER: The Department of Trade and Commerce do assist in the marketing.

Miss MACPHAIL: If under this act no control is given over interprovincial trade and none over export trade, and if it does not give power to boards of farmers and does not do anything to cope with the greatest problem in cooperative marketing, namely, the minority who so often ruin the hard and self-sacrificing work of the majority, just what good is the bill and what does it propose to do? I have read it over about five times and I am still at a loss to know what we shall do, when we have in the provinces marketing legislation that does not take care of interprovincial or export trade and does not control the minority or give powers to the boards.

Mr. GARDINER: When the proposed legislation was first placed before the house, British Columbia also had legislation which empowered the government there to take such steps as were deemed necessary in the light of the federal proposal. Ontario had similar legislation but none of the other provinces had that type. Alberta was giving consideration to the question and since then they have passed legislation, as a matter of fact in the last two or three weeks. Manitoba has since passed legislation similar to that of British Columbia, and the province of Quebec last week, within the last few days of the session, passed legislation which, though it does not go quite so far as the legislation in some of the other provinces, places the province in a position eventually to deal with the matter. New Brunswick has done something of the same sort. Action was finally taken in four provinces since this legislation was first introduced in the house by way of resolution, and since it has advanced a stage further, representations have been made to us, first by a committee appointed by the conference that

met in Montreal a short time ago and, a few days later, by representatives from both the western and the eastern provinces, asking that we place on the statute book this session such legislation as would enable us to empower the boards to control the export of farm products, to make levies upon producers and in certain areas to enforce upon the minority the wishes of the majority. I suggested to them that we have had no cooperative legislation of any kind since the Natural Products Marketing Act was declared *ultra vires*, and having had no such legislation I thought it wise at this session to lay down the fundamental basis for the setting up of cooperative organizations that might have the endorsement of parliament.

With all due respect to those who think that the most important thing at the present time is to compel people to enter cooperative organizations, I would point out that before that step was taken in Denmark, to which country we look for many of our illustrations of what cooperatives can do, eighty-five per cent of the people had voluntarily joined these cooperatives. After eighty-five per cent had voluntarily joined them and they had been carrying on for some time successfully the government passed legislation making it possible to force the others who were interfering with the operations of the organization to become part of it. I think that has been pretty much the practice everywhere. Certain provinces in Canada have for a long time been promoting cooperative organizations; Quebec is one, British Columbia another, Alberta another, and Saskatchewan another. Other provinces have in recent years been enlarging upon their activities in that direction. We think it wise to allow this legislation, which has been placed upon the statute books of some provinces only within the last month or two, to operate for at least a year before we give further consideration to the question whether we should embody in our legislation provisions for enforcement of obligation upon a minority.

Mr. REID: Has this bill to do entirely with the production of articles for export, or would it cover operations for the marketing of products locally?

Mr. GARDINER: It deals with the marketing of all products, in Canada or outside.

Mr. SENN: What is meant by section 2(c), which provides—

(i) for equal returns to primary producers for agricultural products of the like grade and quality.