

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: As evidence of the practicability and desirability of accepting this proposal, Mr. Burnell, Vice President of the Manitoba Wheat Pool, representing all pools before the Committee, went so far as to tell the Committee that if he were general manager of the pools he would accept the offer, but he did not think the farmers generally would do so, because they felt that the elevator companies had taken undue tolls from the farmers in the past, and that they would not care to buy back with their own money what they felt was in a measure, their own property.

My own opinion is that this Bill should be held over until the warring factions can get together and work out a solution which would prove mutually satisfactory. I agree with Mr. Burnell that the proposition made by the grain trade is fair and should be accepted. If their desire is to become thoroughly established in business immediately so that they can comply with their contracts with the farmers to accept grain at every shipping point, here is their chance on fair and equitable terms, doing nobody an injustice, and costing no more than it would cost them by a policy of building new elevators; and it would relieve Parliament of the onus of passing legislation which, whether rightly or wrongly, is felt to be confiscatory and unjust, by established interests. If the Senate can effect a solution along these lines, they will be doing a good service, and a service too, for which they have a splendid precedent. Honourable gentlemen will remember that in the Session of 1924 this House refused to approve the construction of a railway in New Brunswick and a railway in British Columbia at a cost of \$5,000,000, which railways were to parallel the existing line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Bill was held over for a year on the understanding that the parties would get together and arrange for running rights for the Canadian National Railways over Canadian Pacific Railway tracks. This was done, and a saving effected to the country of approximately \$5,000,000. I think the same principle should be applied to this Bill No. 8. The parties should come together immediately and arrange by mutual consent, what is proposed to be done by this legislation, and thereby relieve Parliament of the necessity of passing legislation which, no matter what the argument may be, is bound to do injustice to one side or the other.

The principle which I have suggested would not be a new one, and would not be one with which the pools have had no experience, because they have adopted it in the Province of Alberta. Some time ago they stated to the

grain trade that they proposed to build elevators at 30 different points, and suggested the purchase of existing elevators if the trade approved. The result was that the trade got together and apportioned the elevators in every one of the places mentioned, and the pool has purchased them and the transaction is now going through.

Now, honourable gentlemen, in order to carry into effect the suggestion which I have made, I propose to move an amendment to section 1, which reads as follows:

(2) This section shall come into force on such date as may be fixed by the Governor in Council—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Is this to replace section 1, or is it to be added?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I am adding this as subsection 2 of section 1.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Subsection 2 is there now.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD (continuing):

This section shall come into force on such date as may be fixed by the Governor in Council by proclamation published in the Canada Gazette, and shall remain in force for a period not exceeding one year from the date of proclamation.

At the same time, so that honourable gentlemen may more intelligently consider this amendment in the light of the original motion, I wish to advise the House that I have a further sub-clause to add. For the information of the House I will read it, so that everybody will know what is proposed. This amendment is intended to carry out the suggestion which I made a few moments ago, namely, to adopt a principle which has already been adopted by the pools in the Province of Alberta. The amendment, which I propose to move at a later stage, reads as follows:

Any grain pool shall be empowered and is hereby empowered to purchase from any elevator company one or more country elevators at any shipping point at which such pool has no elevator, and in case there are more elevators than one at such shipping point, and the owners of such elevators and such pool are unable to agree as to which elevator or elevators the said pool shall purchase, then and in that event, the Board shall decide which elevators shall be purchased by such pool; and in case the owner, or owners, of such elevators so decided upon and the pool are unable to agree as to price and terms for such elevator or elevators, then the price and terms shall be determined by arbitration under the provisions of any Act relating to arbitration in force in the Province wherein such elevator or elevators is situated.

Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: If that were to become law, how would it act in the case of a grain company having only one elevator at a place? It would seem to empower the pool to wipe out any operation of the grain company.