

Mr. FRASER (*Northumberland*): The government could only do that by nationalization of the banks.

The WITNESS: If you say that is nationalization, gentlemen, that is nationalization.

*By Hon. Mr. Hanson:*

Q. You are asking us to take our own interpretation of that remark?—A. Certainly.

*By Mr. Coldwell:*

Q. May I ask a question? How widely do you feel that farmers in general share your opinions regarding the banks?—A. How widely do farmers in general?

Q. Yes.—A. In the three western provinces this has been a fairly moot question with farmers for a long number of years. I think Mr. Blackmore will bear me out when I say that for many, many years the farmers of the western provinces have believed that the credit and money instruments of the nation ought to be the responsibility of the nation. There are a great many people in the western provinces believe that, a great many.

Q. I was going to ask you if you consider that the proposed amendments which are contained in the bill now before this committee will eliminate the weaknesses of which you complain?—A. You are asking me something, and you chaps are down here; you have the bills. I got a copy of the bill the day we left. I have not had very much chance to peruse it. I think there have been certain fundamental recommendations there that move in the right direction. I think that just with the cursory glance I took of it. I noticed also someone had moved an amendment in the house that the charters be extended for two years. I do not know what was done with that.

Q. That was moved in this committee.—A. I think that is a fair suggestion. Sitting in here yesterday I can say that I think the most worried man in the city of Ottawa at the present time must be Mr. Ilsley because he not only has this to get rid of but many other things that are in the budget. I think that is a fairly good suggestion, and this investigation should be continued.

Q. You mentioned a report, which I believe is called the Haslem report, in 1913. I think Mr. James Haslem— —A. I think Dr. Oliver was the chairman. Mr. Haslem was on the committee.

Q. Mr. Dunning was on the committee. Were those recommendations not to some extent in line with what you are suggesting?—A. Quite, a great deal in line.

Q. Was anything done about those recommendations by the Saskatchewan government?—A. No.

Q. Or the federal government?—A. No, except the Saskatchewan government shortly after did bring in the Farm Loan bill, the Saskatchewan Farm Loan bill. Mr. Graham would remember that.

Q. I believe that commission travelled rather extensively. It went to Denmark and other European countries where agricultural credits were extended?—A. Yes, they had quite an extensive piece in it in regard to the *Landschaften* of Germany. They were very much taken up by the *Landschaften* scheme of Germany. They reported quite extensively on that.

Q. I just wanted to ask a few questions without going into a lot of detail. I was going to ask what you meant in your brief when you said, "Perhaps the most extensive educational service that has ever been conducted upon the subject is that which has been performed and dramatized over the air and the widely distributed publicity material of the Canadian chartered banks". Are you referring to the bank broadcasts that have been conducted across the country?