

authority with respect to buyers and sellers as distinguished from the stock yards company itself. I agree that we should not by legislation encourage or compel the lessening of the activities of those who desire to purchase live stock in competition with one another. The condition to which my hon. friend has alluded is one that obtained with reference to steers and beef cattle at a time when there was a shortage in the United States. You can buy where you like—in the field, in the hotel, in the village store;—but when the animals stop over night in the stock yards, as they often do, then the regulations with respect to stock yards obtain, and Government supervision is had. The animals must be adequately fed, properly cared for, sufficiently watered; and if there is buying and selling in that stock yard, it takes place under Government supervision and regulation. It is desirable, for that reason, that those who hold themselves out as commission merchants should not be permitted to exercise that business to the

10 p.m. detriment of the farmer who trusts them. It is advisable that there should be some responsible body, such as an exchange, of which the commission merchant should become a member, thus ensuring that the money due to the farmer will be paid to him—because the exchange stands behind the farmer as a licensed buying and selling organization. That, and that only, is the intention of this Act.

Mr. BURRELL: The purpose of the Bill, which was gone over very carefully after a long discussion with men interested, both from the East and from the West, is to try and prevent the very abuses to which reference has been made. I am aware that there is some feeling in the West in regard to the matter of an exchange. There is a live stock exchange in the United Stock Yards, Winnipeg; there is another at Toronto. In the United States business is done in the stock yards through the medium of an exchange, but there is no Government control. The simplest machinery to establish in respect to the buying and selling activities seems to be a live stock exchange. In encouraging or compelling its establishment, it was desirable to have thorough and complete control over its operations. In providing that they themselves should guarantee the integrity of a member of their exchange and supervise their own activities, it is thought that that would be the simplest and most efficient

way of conducting the business. We allow them to take good deal of the responsibility themselves, always with the understanding that, besides approving their by-laws, we maintain supervision over their operations. In this way we relieve ourselves of a good deal of work in connection with running the exchange. I do not think we could get away from the establishment of an exchange, association, or whatever you like to call it. I think the committee may be absolutely confident that the department will have full power to supervise the operations of the exchanges at all times and to prevent any abuses. In short, if there are any abuses, we can have quick investigation and, if necessary, suspend the exchange. This section which provides for the special licensing of commission men is inserted for the purpose of preventing a possible difficulty such as my hon. friend suggests. If any trouble or abuse by these live stock exchanges or groups of men arises, we can suspend the whole thing and issue a special license to such commission men as we think fit. I think we can cover the point brought forward by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) who is not now in his place, by adding a subsection to section 8. There would be no objection to inserting an amendment to section 3, but when we come to section 8, the whole point will be very clearly covered.

Mr. OLIVER: The minister apparently has made up his mind to the establishment of these exchanges. In my judgment, sections 3 and 4, if they have any meaning at all, mean the establishment of a close corporation of commission buyers at each of these stock yards. That is wrong in principle and detrimental in practice, just as in the case of the Grain Exchange at Winnipeg. It will be accentuated in the case of live stock exchanges, and the smaller the exchange the greater the evil of this creation of close corporations. The minister says that it will relieve the Government of some measure of detail in looking after the business of the stock yard. That is true, but it will do so to the very great advantage of the men who are doing the relieving. They are not philanthropists, and if they are going to exert themselves along those lines, they are going to do it for their own benefit, and that benefit must come out of the pockets of the producers. If sections 3 and 4 were struck out, the rest of the Bill would stand perfectly complete with the operations of the stock yards and the transactions of the commission