

Our market for table stock potatoes, however, is very limited, and as time goes on it becomes more and more limited. Five or six years ago we were able to sell a good many of these potatoes in the Cuban market, but that market has been practically lost to us. We can sell some high-class table stock potatoes in New England when the price is high, but when the crop south of the line is large and the price is low we do not find much market there. The only other market left to us is Central Canada, and when there is a good crop of potatoes in Ontario and Quebec we get hardly enough to pay for the growing of the crop and the freight. So I do not see that any benefit would accrue to the table stock potato business; in fact, I can see where difficulty might arise.

Those who have read the debates on this Bill will remember that an illustration was given of what might be done should the apple growers of Canada, for instance, find when the season opened that a large shipment from British Columbia was going to Great Britain through the Panama Canal at the same time that the growers of Nova Scotia were preparing to ship. It would then be within the power of the board to order the Nova Scotia shippers to hold off, in order that too many apples might not be thrown on the market at one time. Then, if the Nova Scotia shippers found that they had to take a loss, it would be the duty of the board to make up that loss by a toll on the export of the product generally.

If that principle is applied to interprovincial trade, it looks as though we might find ourselves in this position. It would be open to the producers in Ontario and Quebec, who wished to get as good a price as they could, to petition the board to prevent the potatoes of the Maritime Provinces from coming to the Central Canada market in the early part of the season, when they themselves have plenty of potatoes which they can ship, and intend to ship. If the board were to attempt to enforce the power given to it in this regard, and to control interprovincial trade by requiring the producers of the Maritime Provinces to hold back their product until the Central Canada crop was marketed, the board would be in the position of having to make good any losses Eastern Canada might sustain by reason of the board's order. It seems to me that to give such a power to the board is rather dangerous, and that it will make for disruption, or will set one part of Canada against another in a way that is not desirable or conducive to the good of the country generally.

Then there is another feature. It seems to me that the board is given very wide powers in regard to prohibiting, restricting or controlling exports or imports of natural products. I think that is something that should at least come before Parliament for ratification before it is put into effect. Public opinion is a great tester of any such action as that; and to give this board power to impose quotas, under a trade agreement, if it wishes—for that is what section 12 amounts to—is, I think, going entirely too far; and I would strongly recommend to the right honourable the leader of the House that he should consider a limitation of that clause so that it may not have such a wide application. From this you will see, honourable gentlemen, that while I admit that some features of this Bill might be helpful, there are others which I think are working in the wrong direction.

I was pleased to hear the right honourable the leader of the House say yesterday, in speaking to the motion of the honourable senator from Red Deer (Hon. Mr. Michener), that the primary cause of the period through which we are passing was debts—debts international, national, provincial, municipal and personal. I agree with him in that. I think he struck the nail on the head. In view of that condition, are we doing in this Bill what we should do to relieve the producer and the labourer from the burden which they are carrying? I know the farmers, the labourers and others are finding it very difficult to get along and are asking most seriously if everything that can be done to meet the situation, or at least to equalize the load of debt that is upon us, is being done. It is not necessary to go into the details in these matters, because every honourable member knows them as well as I do. As against that debt we have the earning power of the people; but that earning power is at a very low point—almost as low as it was at any time during the depression—and it is that low earning power that makes it hard for the farmers, producers and artisans to meet their liabilities.

I know the people are thinking of this. They may not be saying very much, but I feel strongly enough about it to mention it at this time, in connection with a Bill of such wide application as the one before us. It is considered that something should be done to deal with the monetary situation and to raise price levels so that our common people would be able by increased earning power—inflation, if you will—to meet the debt, which stands just as high to-day as when it was contracted. When we approach our people with regulations such as those contained in this Bill, or provi-