

price I have no doubt that in many cases that was so, due to the difficulty in controlling the truckers delivering their potatoes.

There has been no change in the system of grading the potatoes. For a number of years grading of potatoes has been required for interprovincial trade, but not for trade within the province. That practice was continued this year, but with the setting up of this marketing scheme the potato growers themselves felt that it would be to their advantage under the scheme to carry out a grading system within the provinces. Before Quebec entered the scheme the farmers in that province were free to sell their potatoes in their own province without enforcing the grading regulations.

With reference to the questions which the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Moore) has asked about the tobacco marketing scheme and the conditions under which tobacco is marketed, I have made inquiries since the house rose at six o'clock from the chairman of the dominion marketing board, who himself is engaged in the business of raising tobacco, and he informs me as president and chairman of two tobacco associations in the district—

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Would the minister be kind enough to give the names of the two associations?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I shall be glad to get them; I do not remember them offhand. I am informed by him that the buyers of tobacco are licensed. The sellers are also licensed, but in the first year of operation of this scheme of local marketing under the tobacco board a blanket licence was issued to all farmers producing tobacco, and that gave permission to each farmer to sell all his tobacco. There is no limiting feature so far as this scheme is concerned as to the amount of tobacco produced by any tobacco producer in the province of Ontario, either within this area or outside the area.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Am I to understand that licences were issued to all growers at the time and to no one else?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): My information is this, that individual licences to individual growers were not issued as such, but that through the press and otherwise a blanket licence was issued to every producer giving him authority to sell all the tobacco that he produced. That was the 1934 crop.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): What is the acreage that was licensed, and what was the acreage contained in the two syndicates in which the chairman is interested?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have not that information. I am informed that within the area there are one thousand producers. But the point the hon. member is asking about has no bearing on the question, because every farmer who produced tobacco received a licence to sell all the tobacco that he produced.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): I am afraid that the minister has misunderstood my question. He says that there are one thousand producers. How many of those producers were working for or under the two associations in which the chairman is interested? I will put it in another way. The minister says that there are one thousand producers. Does he mean that there were 998 in addition to the two associations in which the chairman was interested, or is the chairman interested in a number of lands on which there are a number of producers?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The information that I received from the chairman is this, that he is president and chairman of two companies—

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Controlling how many producers?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I do not know how many producers. When I gave the number of producers as one thousand I did not intend to give the impression that that was the exact number but rather that the number was in that neighbourhood. I was trusting my memory on that point, but I can get the exact number of producers within the area.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Am I to understand that the minister will give me the information required as to the acreage of the two associations in which the chairman is interested as compared with the total acreage?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I see no objection to giving that.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): And the number of producers represented by the two associations as compared with the total number of producers?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): It seems to me that the matter is exceedingly important. The minister and every member of this house will recognize that a precedent has been created when a gentleman engaged in an industry has a privilege as part of a monopoly and then is made chairman of the board controlling those privileges. It seems to me that the thing is entirely without precedent.