

will materially assist in securing my support to the re-establishment of the Wheat Board. It is not a question of majority or minority. In the ordinary transactions of public affairs it is certainly the practice or custom to permit the majority to rule, but here we are invading a man's personal, individual right to handle his own good, and that is, perhaps, the most important feature involved in this proposal. There is a large number who question the actual right of any Government to interfere—except in such exigencies as war—with their privilege of marketing their own products. Permit me to give you an illustration of what I mean: I met a gentleman the other day who has for many years been engaged in the business of wheat-growing and general farming, as had his father before him. For a period of perhaps forty years they have done what many gentlemen in this room have done, built up a competency. They now have a fine farm which is valuable. They have their own threshing outfit; they study their business. In the first place, they farm their land so as to get their crop off it as early as they possibly can. They own their own threshing outfit and thresh their own grain. They realize from experience that, by getting their grain off early they can get a higher price for it. Should not that be their privilege? If they can by skill, application, study, and long years of toil, and perhaps privation in their early days, arrive at their present position, should it not be their privilege to reap that advantage if they can do so?

Mr. ROBINSON: Your example raises a question that applies to practically every Act of Parliament. It interferes with what somebody thinks is his special privilege. I do not know of any country in the world that may be called civilized where every man can do just what he likes. Regarding the compulsion, I think it is right from the point of view of the general good to disregard any man who, for some fancied reason, may say "I will not do this because I can do it in a better way." I do not think that should be considered, but I do want to point out that my impression is that with the Wheat Board handling the grain as they did before, such a man's idea of doing better would be a fallacious one. I have been trying to emphasize the fact that this slumping, when the big delivery was forced on the market, was one of the main causes of the depression in price. If these slumps did not occur this man would not get any better price.

Mr. FORKE: I cannot agree with you.

Mr. ROBINSON: That is your privilege.

Mr. FORKE: I happen to be in exactly the position of the gentleman to whom Mr. Stevens made reference. I live in the southern part of the Province of Manitoba. I have a fairly large farm and own my own threshing outfit. Personally, I am satisfied that I will not, on the whole, do any better under the Wheat Board. At the same time, I would like to tell Mr. Stevens that I do not know a single farmer in the same position as myself in the Province of Manitoba who is not quite willing to fall into line so that the body politic all over may be benefited.

Mr. FORRESTER: We know that foodstuffs and breadstuffs are gambled on in many different Bourses all over western Europe, in fact, all over the world, and I fear that if the Wheat Board was formed in Winnipeg or in Western Canada and they got a big quantity of grain on hand—which probably would accumulate—they would just be a big fat goose for the Bourses to pluck. There is a danger that you would get less instead of more. That is what I fear. At the same time, the interests of Canada are involved in the price of wheat more than in anything else. If you could raise the price of wheat to \$2 a bushel, Canada would soon be rid of her difficulties, but I am afraid you will knock it instead of boosting it.

Mr. ROBINSON: I cannot answer a man's opinion, but I want to say that the men most interested in this proposal are quite anxious to run the risk.

An hon. MEMBER: I assume that the Canadian Council of Agriculture has representatives from Ontario and Quebec?

[Mr. James Robinson.]