

other work. That is true and I will give the explanation of that fact. The inspection of grain and grain handling is under the control and management of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The administration of the Grain Inspection Act and the Manitoba Grain Act are in the hands of my colleague, Sir Richard Cartwright (Minister of Trade and Commerce). It is not, therefore possible for me, I do not think it would be proper for me, to interfere in the arrangement or management of a business which is thus especially assigned to another department of the government. My colleague, however, asked me as he was in the Senate and I in the House of Commons, to take particular charge of the evidence on this question which came before the committee of this House and I was very glad indeed to do so. I appreciate very much the evidence that was produced. The delegates were men evidently thoroughly well versed in the subjects they discussed. They were evidently representative of the interest which had asked for an opportunity of presenting their views. I was also extremely interested and gratified at the unanimity which seemed on the whole to be shown in the discussion that arose, and the evidence of that was that it was possible for me to ask the minister in charge if we might not put through two Bills to meet as far as possible this session the requests of the delegates. I am glad to say that these Bills have already passed both Houses and are awaiting the signature of the Governor General.

As to the question of the commission, I believe there is a great work for this commission to do, I am not prepared myself with the very meagre knowledge I have as to these things to say what the difficulties and the evils are, but it is evident that there is an impression and an opinion amongst the grain growers of the west that there are great evils in the management of the business and even if it is found that those evils are not as great as at present thought, it would be quite sufficient reason for the appointment of the commission and the investigation merely to clear the atmosphere and get the exact facts in regard to the whole business before the public. I feel this strongly and I therefore have had no hesitation at all in asking my colleague if he would consent to the appointment of a commission, and Sir Richard Cartwright promptly consented, saying there was no doubt it would be in the interest of the trade. I was therefore authorized to state as I did the other day that that commission would be appointed. In regard to the composition of the commission I would say the grain growers will certainly be the preponderating interest on that commission. The commission is for the purpose of meeting the views that were expressed and the government wishes to carry out exactly the

request made to them because it seemed to be a reasonable request.

Mr. STAPLES. How many commissioners will there be?

Mr. FISHER. I am not positive. But I should think that three commissioners with a well informed secretary would be enough to do the business. If we could get say, a good grain grower from Manitoba, one from Saskatchewan, a miller from Ontario, and perhaps, the secretary of the commission from Alberta, so that all the different interests should be as much as possible represented, it would be a fair distribution, and would make a business-like commission to carry out the work. I do not believe a large commission is either advisable or necessary. My hon. friends speak of the small amount put in the estimates for the expenses of this commission. If such a commission as I have briefly outlined gets to work and spends three months on this business—and I think they could do it in that time—\$10,000 would be sufficient. But if this amount of money is not sufficient to cover the work, I can assure my hon. friend the work will not be cut short on that account, but that a supplementary vote will be asked for to enable us to finish the work at once. My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) asks what will be the scope of the commission. I believe the scope of the commission ought to be as wide as possible—as wide as may be necessary to cover all the business. I am not prepared to say in what terms we can do that best. I do not pretend to have attempted to work out the lines of the commission. But I know that is the desire of Sir Richard Cartwright that the commission should have ample power to investigate everything connected with the subject, and, that being the case, I think my hon. friend can rest assured—and, by the way, I may say that the commission will be composed of representative competent men, men who are engaged in the business—that great good to the whole trade will result. That is our object and our hope and we will carry out that object and realize that hope to the best of our ability.

Mr. HERRON. I wish to bring to the attention of the minister the condition of the farmers and stock raisers in the Northwest. I refer to the condition of the beef-cattle industry. The farmers in the Northwest and many others are of the opinion that a combine exists. I have no doubt that this matter has been brought to the attention of the hon. minister. Everything points in the direction of a combine. I am of opinion, as are a great many others who live in the Northwest that that combine does exist. I would like to read a letter that was sent to me from one of the stock associations in my district.