

organizations throughout the dominion. It will be of interest for the house to learn that in 1932, for which year we have the last reliable record, there were 795 cooperative organizations operating actively in the Dominion of Canada with a membership of 2,692 branches. Therefore, although from time to time failures of cooperative marketing organizations have been brought to our attention, I am sure every hon. member will feel that with such a considerable number of cooperatives and their branches still functioning satisfactorily, they have made considerable progress even in spite of almost unsurmountable odds.

If there is within the sound of my voice any person who has given any thought to this question and who feels that with the condition of marketing as it is at the present time, there is nothing to be gained by this bill then there can be no need in his mind for this bill. But I am sure there are many in the house who have given serious thought to the marketing of natural products, who have been surprised at the great wastage, in spite of the combined efforts of private and co-operative organizations, in the marketing of our products. One reason for the wastage, for instance, in the marketing of cattle is that the marketing is not regulated, the production is not planned. Of late there has been a good deal of discussion on that question by different public bodies. Let us take, for example, a veal calf that is ready to be marketed. It is sent to the local stockyards where it is thrown in amongst strange stock before it has even learned how to eat grain or hay. It is sent up the chute and it is lost, not knowing what to do. There it will be buffeted about in being forced into the stock car where it also finds itself among strange surroundings. It may be unloaded again before it gets to the final market. It comes to the market finally but was unable during all this time to maintain the flesh and condition it had when it was sold by the original producer. Someone may say that that is rather an extreme case. It is, perhaps, an extreme case so far as cattle are concerned, but when one considers the hundreds of thousands of calves that are marketed in such a condition, we shall see that it is not by any means so extreme. If this animal is not marketed almost immediately it arrives at the stockyards after the journey which has brought it into such a condition, the loss that is sustained will make it scarcely worth marketing, because any farmer who has experience in raising stock—and the better quality it is the more it is likely to suffer under such conditions—will agree that if it is not marketed within a

period of four or five days, it is practically not worth marketing; there is nothing left but skin and bone. The same thing is true of highly finished young cattle that have to go through the same treatment.

Let me give an illustration that will be better understood by hon. members who are not so familiar with the marketing of live stock. It has no doubt come to the attention of every hon. member that if in the summer or the fall one goes down to a Saturday night market, one will find baskets of peaches there just commencing to get overripe and can buy them for almost nothing. The storekeeper considers this to be a sacrifice sale. I maintain there is no product that is more often sold at a sacrifice than cattle, hogs or lambs once they are out of the hands of the producer. If in one breath people claim that everything should be sold through the stockyards and in the next say there are organizations in this country that agree among themselves as to what they shall pay for our natural products, we have this picture: we have all the stock forced into the stockyards, as many as 5,000 head in one yard, and according to the other argument there may be no competition because of an agreement among large purchasers that they will pay just what they wish. All they have to do is to remain off that market for a day or two and they will be able to buy that product for whatever they want to pay, because it cannot be held without terrific loss. Following this, I would say that the time for a producer to sell his article at the greatest profit is, in the case of the farmer, before it leaves his own farm. If small co-operative units were developed which would stress quality production and could control enough live stock or cattle to enable them to bargain with the trade and arrange that the product should be bought on the farms, then the purchaser would have a greater interest in quality and this would make certain, in a way that the farmer or producer cannot now do, that it would reach its ultimate destination in good condition for manufacture.

The same thing applies in connection with pigs, sheep, or fruit, particularly apples. Those of you who have been engaged in the production or have watched the marketing of apples have seen the great waste that there often is between the time they are ready for sale and the time they are sold. For instance, we have cold storage plants throughout the dominion, erected for the purpose of preserving fruit and apples so that they may be kept in better condition for sale. It is known by those