

It does not deal with agriculture generally. In British Columbia there are two localities where potatoes are grown, one in the interior and the other on the coast. We have never been in agreement with the man on the potato board who comes from the interior. There are only a few men growing onions or onion seed and there are a few growing alsike seed. If you are to have a man representing every little industry you will clutter up the thing so that it will not work.

Mr. GARDINER: I think what the hon. member has in mind is that if we do set up commodity boards, then the boards should have these members, but in order to do that he should strike out all the words after "or other agents." If we put the words he has in mind before "or other agents" I think it would achieve his purpose. It would then read:

To appoint commodity boards which shall include representatives of the primary producers or to appoint other agents to undertake the purchase and disposition of agricultural products.

Mr. KNOWLES: I was trying to draft something along the same line. I think it could be amended by taking the subsection exactly as it is and adding these words, "Provided that any boards appointed under this subsection shall include representatives of the primary producers." That phrase would refer only to the boards and not to the other agents.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister seems inclined to accept the suggestion so why should not this clause be left over for redrafting?

Mr. GARDINER: There will be no difficulty about drafting it because it can be done in a few seconds. There is just the possibility that we may want to appoint a commodity board of one in some case where it is just a matter of dealing with a product for a short period of time. We may want to put on some official and I do not know whether it would be advisable to make it absolutely compulsory. I can say this to the committee that it would be our desire to have representatives of the primary producers.

Mr. COLDWELL: Could not you call such an official an agent, and where you have a commodity board you could include representatives of the primary producers? If you want to appoint one man, appoint him as an agent.

Mr. GARDINER: I think this can be safely left in its present form. I may say again that wherever it is feasible or wherever it is possible to do it we would desire to have primary producers on the board, but I can

[Mr. Reid.]

conceive of cases where it might be rather difficult or where it is possible that they would not desire it.

Mr. COLDWELL: The only thing is that this will be in the statutes, and we do not know who will succeed the minister if there is a succession, if the government is changed. We have been told so often that it is the written word that prevails in the court of law. I think if we can safeguard the interests of the primary producers we should do so. If it is necessary to appoint one man to deal with an isolated commodity he could be designated an agent.

Mr. GARDINER: If it is desired to make it more certain I think it could be done under paragraph (j) which gives power to appoint a committee or committees to assist the board in an advisory capacity. It could be stated there that there may be representation of the primary producers. I have in mind a matter about which there was some discussion in connection with the food board. We were given the power to put representatives of the producers on the food board and we suggested it to them.

I think it is acknowledged by all of us that the only persons that all parties will agree are producer representatives are officials of an official farm organization. When we go to an official farm organization and say that we want the full time of one of their officers as a member of this board they may say, "When he becomes one of your full-time officers he ceases to be one of our full-time officers." We might find it difficult to get the man that we desired to have or that they would desire us to have on the board, but the same man would act on the advisory committee.

That advisory committee would consider the very question that is in the minds of hon. members. When it was decided to turn a product over to a commodity board they would want to know how it was to be constituted and we would try to satisfy them in the setting up of the board. I do not think there will be any great difficulty, no matter what minister is here. I think under the pressure of public opinion in connection with matters of this kind it would be considered advisable that there should be representatives.

Mr. PERLEY: This is the advisory committee of twelve which the minister referred to this afternoon?

Mr. GARDINER: There are twelve members on the food committee. I do not see how you can have an advisory committee of less than twelve members that would function properly.