

merchant, for instance. When there is a good crop a merchant in the West does a roaring trade for several months of the year. He sells out his stock at a good profit and buys more goods. The next year the crop amounts to perhaps only one-third of the good crop. What does the merchant do? He has to curtail his business. He probably loses a great part of what he made in the good year. What would you think of such a man if he came to Parliament and said: "I had good business last year, I had good business the year before, and made some money. I went on building and expending money to put myself in a position to do a good business last year, but last year we had a poor crop, and two or three new merchants came into the town and built up-to-date stores, and competition was keen, and I have not been able to make a dollar to pay for the improvements." That is exactly the position taken by the elevator companies. Do you think, Mr. Chairman, that the farmer should pay the losses of the elevator men because they misjudged their business, and went ahead too fast and spent too much money? We have now in the three Prairie Provinces two elevators for every one that is needed, no matter how big the crop is.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? He was present at nearly all the meetings of the Committee. Would he kindly tell the House what witness gave evidence to the effect that we had too many elevators in Western Canada?

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not going by the evidence that was given before the Committee.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: The honourable gentleman will admit that that matter was under discussion, and that witnesses who appeared before the Committee were asked whether or not there were too many elevators to serve Western Canada. The honourable gentleman is making a very bald assertion. He states that there are two elevators for every one required. All I ask is that he give us the name of the witness who said that.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Burnell said so.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I had the question written down to put to someone. It was stated that there were too many, but what the proportion was I do not know.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: It was stated that in the lean years, when there was not a good crop, there were too many; but the evidence

as I remember it was that when there was a bumper crop such as we had last year there were not too many.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Mr. Burnell in giving his evidence stated, I think, that in his own town—

Hon. Mr. CALDER: At certain points, yes.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: He said that there were four elevators in his own town in Manitoba, and that the pool elevator took in, if I remember rightly, 390,000 bushels of grain—

Hon. Mr. CALDER: 300,000 bushels.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: —and that of the other three elevators, one took in 28,000 bushels, one 40,000 bushels, and one a little less than 40,000—a total of less than 100,000 bushels. That shows that in that town there were two elevators too many. Even with a bumper crop there was no more wheat than would justify the erection of two elevators. The ambition of the elevator companies to get a bigger share of the 400,000 bushels marketed there led them to build four elevators. Now, should the farmer pay for the building of those four elevators? He had nothing to do with their building. He did not induce those men to build the elevators.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: May I ask if the pool did not build the fourth elevator at that place.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: I do not know who built it. The pool wanted to get a share of the crop, and if they built the fourth elevator my honourable friend must acknowledge that they had good common sense and good men in charge and good men at the elevator, and that they had a sufficient number of members of the pool around that town to justify them in building the elevator.

Now, has the farmer not a right to have his wheat go down to Fort William to his own elevator? Even if he cannot put it into his own elevator at the country point it is to the advantage of the country elevator to get some of the pool wheat. As a matter of fact, the country elevators have made agreements covering many elevators throughout the country at points where the pool had no elevator. Does it not seem reasonable that such farmers should get what comes out of their own wheat, and that they should send it to their own elevator?

Now, some honourable gentlemen who were not at the Committee meetings may not understand this question. I do not know that I understand it so very well myself, but having lived for many years in the West, and