

APPENDIX No. 3

reports which I can submit to you, is as late as January 12, 1907. I would like, Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, to read one of these letters, and it will open up all the objections which we have to the Bill.

By Mr. Smith (Nanaimo):

Q. Is that in Scotland?—A. In Scotland. They are in operation there under the same system that this Bill asks for now.

Q. Is there any Bill like this in England?—A. The principles of the Bill are the same.

Q. Is there any legislation in England like this?—A. In Scotland it comes under the same class of legislation as that.

Q. Then you say there is legislation like this in England?—A. Yes, similar to this. Now this letter is—

By the Chairman:

Q. Let us be practical. You represent a large association of retail merchants?—A. Yes.

Q. I understand your association is against the Bill?—A. Yes.

Q. Why borrow any opinions from any paper in Scotland? State briefly the objection which you have to this Bill?—A. Do you not see, Mr. Chairman, it would be better to go where they have had experience of this Bill. We have only the experience of companies here in Canada, and they are in operation under the Joint Stock Companies Act. This is the prospectus that one of them puts out:—

‘What is Co-operation?’

‘Co-operation is the banding together of any number of persons in order to work out together that which one person cannot accomplish alone. The Canadian Co-operative Concern was organized by people who have an eye to the future. They have broken away from the competitors’ system with its high prices, and are banded together in purchasing from first hands the things they eat, wear and use. We not only save the profits of the middleman but share in the profits of those doing business with us who are not shareholders. Join us by helping us, help yourself.

‘OUR METHOD OF DOING BUSINESS.

‘All merchandise is sold to shareholders and others at the regular retail price which is as low as the lowest. The profits of this immense business are divided among the shareholders in proportion to their purchases and not according to the number of shares held by them. We expect, in the near future, to give you a rebate (or dividend), of 15 cents or 20 cents on every dollar’s worth of goods purchased through us.’

By Mr. Monk:

Q. What society is this?—A. This is the Canadian Co-operative Concern. The head office is in Hamilton and they are putting this advertisement in one of the Midland papers. They are to open a branch in Midland and they are asking the consumers who live in the town and the district surrounding it to invest their money in this co-operative concern. This is the class of advertisement they are putting into the papers, inducing people to put their money into the company by offering to give 15 or 20 cents on every dollar’s worth of goods purchased from them.

Q. How is this organized?—A. Under the Ontario Joint Stock Companies Act.

By Mr. Smith (Nanaimo):

Q. What relation has that to this Bill?—A. The clauses you put into the Bill will carry out in effect just the same method that is in operation with this company and also with the companies I referred to in Scotland.