

of exchange that my hon. friend has referred to which is obnoxious to everybody, but a body that might be able to deal with the situation and yet be under such control as to prevent the possibility of injury being done to the farmer. That is the story, and I think, if my hon. friend will look at the section he will see that the Government must assume the whole responsibility for it. I think this provision will probably meet the difficulty that I have always felt in connection with these exchanges, and which my hon. friend has just referred to. Section 3 reads:

3. There shall be a live stock exchange in connection with each stock yard operated under this Act, of which live stock exchange every commission merchant doing business at such stock yard shall be a member, unless he holds a special license from the minister.

I am not sure that the provision "unless he holds a special license from the minister" is useful. Section 4 says:

(1) A live stock exchange shall not be operated until the by-laws to regulate the management and business of such exchange have been duly approved by the minister, and a written notification of such approval has been sent by the minister to the secretary of such live stock exchange.

I am not so sure that that language is calculated to overcome the difficulty to which the member for Edmonton referred. Probably it would be better to have some other tribunal than the men themselves to decide upon their own integrity. It was in connection with that very point that the difficulty in Winnipeg arose. The section continues:

(2) Such by-laws shall provide for the admission as members of such live stock exchange of such persons as desire to carry on the business of commission merchants, and who furnish evidence of integrity and financial standing satisfactory to the executive of the exchange, and such by-laws shall require every commission merchant becoming a member of the exchange to furnish sufficient and satisfactory security for the proper accounting by such commission merchant of the proceeds of any sales received by him, and of any money paid to him to effect any purchase.

That is nothing more than the provisions that obtain in the Grain Act with respect to elevator licenses. As to the general principle of the establishment of an exchange, I am advised by the men who frequent these exchanges, not as buyers, but as sellers, that it conduces to the proper carrying on of the business to have a secretary there to whom a man with a dozen cattle may go and say: I have a dozen cattle; who is buying to-day? The secretary may say: Smith is buying, from

[Mr. R. B. Bennett.]

Chicago; Burns, from Calgary; Gallagher, from Edmonton. The all-important point to which the member for Edmonton referred as to the conditions precedent to the establishment of the exchange is one to which this committee should give serious consideration. After the exchange is established the regulations will be sufficient; but too much care cannot be exercised in controlling the conditions precedent to the establishment of the exchange. But we should not, in my judgment, permit these men to be the judges of their own integrity. I desire to place myself on record as favouring the idea of the exchange; of control by the Government, of supervision of the feeding, accommodation and care of the stock—because sometimes the stock does not receive the attention that it should; we all know that the animals sometimes go without water for a considerable length of time. After all, this matter is of as much public importance as the grain business; it touches what you might call the suffering of the animals, and in that respect it is important. The people with whom I have communicated are entirely in sympathy with this legislation; they are not anxious that the difficulties that were experienced in Winnipeg shall arise again. I repeat that we must eliminate that section which permits the men themselves to govern their own conduct and to determine their own integrity. Some other tribunal should determine whether a man who furnishes the necessary evidence should become a member of the organization—because once you get the monopolistic tendency developed; once you get a tendency to exclusiveness, a desire not to let in a man who wants to go into business, then you have trouble.

Mr. ROBB: Last fall throughout Southern Alberta the hotels were filled with buyers of sheep; they were simply tumbling over one another. Are we now going to change the conditions and compel all those men to go to certain stock yards and buy from commission merchants?

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: No; I am glad to assure the hon. member that such is not the case. This legislation does not in the slightest degree impede the free movement of those who desire to go out and buy sheep, horses, cattl, or anything else. If, on the other hand, men take their stock to the yards, as they do in Chicago, for instance, it is desirable that there should be an exchange, representing the controlling