

of this kind, neighbouring farmers who attend the meeting should not be denied the privilege of expressing their opposition to the scheme. Now, that was done.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No doubt about that.

Mr. BROWN: The minister agrees with what I said?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Absolutely.

Mr. BROWN: I think the minister will agree that that was an entirely wrong policy to pursue.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): When the money was advanced it was set out very definitely as one of the conditions that every opportunity should be given to opponents of the scheme to express their view.

Mr. BROWN: Well, it was not done.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The first condition that was attached to the advance of this money was that:

Every effort should be made to familiarize all poultry producers with the purpose and proposed operation of the scheme in order to ensure as complete registration and poll as possible and opportunity shall be given at every meeting to all who desire to discuss the scheme.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Who signed that letter?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The dominion marketing board.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Who overruled it?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It must have been the individuals sent out who did not live up to it. The information no doubt is correct, and I would appreciate it if the hon. member would give me the name of the individual in charge of the meeting.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): By whom were those people appointed—the dominion marketing board?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No, they were appointed by the proponents of the scheme in each province.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Would the minister give me the marketing qualifications of the members of the marketing board?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): At the present time the chairman of the dominion marketing board is a man with excellent training in agricultural economics before he went into business on his own account.

Mr. DUFF: Who is he?

[Mr. Brown.]

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Mr. Leitch. He made an outstanding success, I believe, of this business he entered into. He was to a considerable extent responsible for formulating the scheme in connection with regulating the marketing of tobacco, and before coming to the dominion marketing board was responsible to a great extent for the success of that scheme.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): May I interrupt? I understood the minister to say that we had to have the marketing board in connection with tobacco because the marketing of tobacco had not been a success. Now he states that the chairman has made a distinct success of the marketing of tobacco.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I said the chairman of the board had made a distinct success in this business that he had undertaken. The hon. member knows, as I had occasion to know through numbers of delegations who came to interview me in 1932, I think, and in 1933, of the unsatisfactory conditions that existed in connection with the marketing of tobacco.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Unsuccessful.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Unsuccessful, especially the smaller producers. They felt that they were being discriminated against. I believe it is the almost unanimous opinion that there has been a great improvement, outside of a party of two who came to see me two weeks ago, and I think they laboured under a misapprehension which I hope has been cleared up. Doctor Booth is head of the Department of agricultural economics, and we felt he was qualified to make a contribution to this work.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Has he ever had any selling experience?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I do not think he has ever had any experience in merchandising. The work of the marketing board is not to buy and sell.

Mr. DUFF: It is to prevent it.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Mr. Eaton, from the Department of Finance—

Mr. DUFF: It is like the whaling convention mentioned this afternoon.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): —has had a very distinguished career in connection with the study of finance. Mr. Davidson was one of the outstanding men on the bureau of statistics, and we felt his records would be of great value. Mr. Gosselin has been enthusiastic in agricultural work, and has been an outstand-