

as to where they will buy, what they will buy, and what is best suited to their particular soil. If a man is in the farming business, just as some of us are in the manufacturing business or in other lines, surely he knows what is best for his own needs. Let us give the farmers a free choice instead of driving them by the action of the government into the hands of certain people who will have a certain territory allotted to them, in which territory the farmer must buy whatever the government allows him to buy. In seconding the motion, I believe I am giving the farmer freedom of choice in what he ought to do, and so it is moved by the hon. member for Brant and seconded by myself that this clause be deleted.

Mr. GARDINER: Before the question is put I want to make the committee fully acquainted with the manner in which these decisions are arrived at. I have said a number of times that the decisions are reached after discussion between the officials of this department and officials of the provincial governments, and the memorandum I have sets out the provincial fertilizer board. There is a fertilizer board in each province and these boards are the authorized agents of the respective provinces for recommending fertilizers for use.

Mr. HATFIELD: Also the authorized agents of the fertilizer companies.

Mr. GARDINER: Probably your company is represented on one of them.

The personnel of the board includes representatives from farmers organizations, soil and crop specialists, and the government experimental farms and agricultural colleges as well as the fertilizer industry. It is made up of representatives from all. Each board has representatives of farm organizations, soil and crop specialists and representatives of the government experimental farms and the agricultural colleges, the experimental farms being federal and the agricultural colleges provincial, and there are also representatives of the fertilizer industry. The boards meet periodically to study the use of fertilizers in relation to soil fertility and crop requirements based on the results of experiments and established practice. Their recommendations are published for the use of farmers, and during and since the war have been used also for providing a basis for preventing the sale of unsuitable fertilizers. The proposed amendments would implement the recommendations of these boards respecting suitable fertilizers for the farmer, and there is really nothing in it to prevent the farmer from getting other ingredients and adding any of them or mixing fertilizer to suit

himself, or anything of that kind. It does, however, protect the farmer, who has not the facilities to make the checks, against anything that any salesman or manufacturer may desire to do which would result in the farmer getting something he does not want. Everyone is carefully protected in the matter, and these boards are carefully set up. They are not federal boards but provincial, and this legislation is made in a form which all of those persons consider would obtain the results desired. This is an important section and it ought to be passed.

Mr. CHARLTON: It goes farther than that. As I stated before, it becomes impossible for a man to buy a certain fertilizer in a certain district. Whether or not 0-12-10 is going to be included in the new list, I do not know, but it was not included in the list the minister read.

Mr. GARDINER: That is the war list.

Mr. CHARLTON: That is all right, but it could be the next list if this committee so designated. If the companies do not want to manufacture 0-12-10, it would be possible for them to say so to the committee and get away with it, would it not?

Mr. GARDINER: It might be possible—

Mr. CHARLTON: It certainly would.

Mr. GARDINER:—but I think my hon. friend has had sufficient experience in this and similar matters to believe that these particular officials to whom I have referred are not going to be working in the interests of any particular manufacturer of fertilizer but will be doing the best they can for the farmer. I can understand that during war time there were certain ingredients which it was not possible to put in, in the same proportions as at other times—

Mr. CHARLTON: That is true.

Mr. GARDINER:—and because of that, certain mixtures had to be provided for. But I am quite certain that any organization such as I have referred to, set up within the province to do a job of this kind, will put back the necessary ingredients as soon as they can be obtained. There is no doubt about that. They will take into consideration the quantities of different ingredients that are available and the absolute necessity for these ingredients in the mixture.

Mr. CHARLTON: No fertilizer company will manufacture something which the farmer does not demand and does not want. Let us be realists about the matter. The fertilizer company is going to manufacture what the farmer demands and not something that it