

gentleman from Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Gillis), but I think that in this case the Government are not so much to blame as they often are. The labours of the committee appointed by the other House were very long. I know this, for I attended some of their meetings as a spectator. I think the amendments that the committee finally decided on are fairly satisfactory to the rival interests—they are rivals in some degree—interests representing the co-operative institutions and the ordinary grain trade.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was there in attendance.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: And our old friend Mr. Pitblado was there, representing the Grain Exchange.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes; and they were all agreed upon the advantage of the amendment.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: The committee recommended radical changes from the old methods of grading grain, but I am assured that in the end there was—if not entire satisfaction to everybody, which would be almost impossible where rival interests clash—there was a consensus of opinion that we had a working Act.

With respect to the question of provincial jurisdiction, as the honourable leader of the Government in this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has indicated, there is one phase that tends to give assurance of the safe working of the Act: the Grain Commissioners are Dominion appointees, the Railway Board is a Dominion institution, and the Grain Act is a Dominion Act. So I trust there will be no clash of jurisdiction.

All legislation of this kind is to some extent experimental, notwithstanding our long experience in dealing with the grain trade, one of our major industries. I was present when a gentleman who is prominent in the grain trade was protesting violently, before the Committee on Agriculture of the other House, that the grain trade would be unable to carry on if a Bill such as has now come down were passed. That was last year. I presume he has been better informed in the meantime, for he now occupies an important portfolio in the Federal Cabinet. I am merely illustrating the fact that in legislation affecting rival interests members of Parliament will vote to bring about, so far as possible, a working arrangement. I think a working arrangement has been made in the present

instance. I may say that I am, and have been ever since I became a member of this House, particularly interested in legislation of the character of this Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If I thought my honourable friend from Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Gillis) would be pleased with the suggestion that after passing the second reading we should form a special committee of honourable members who know all about this business, and have them devote this evening to a consideration of the most important clauses of the Bill, I should have no objection to making such a proposal.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It is always with some diffidence that one takes the responsibility of bringing to this Chamber such an imposing looking measure in the last days of a session. We have three possible courses to pursue: we may prolong the session until we have considered the Bill as fully as we desire, or we may postpone consideration of the Bill to another session, or we may trust to the wisdom of the committee of the other House, who, with the help of the experts at its disposal, examined the Bill thoroughly before making its recommendations.

As my honourable friend who leads the other side of this House (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) has said, legislation of this kind is always somewhat experimental. I have been a member of this Chamber thirty-two years, and during that time we have had frequent amendments to the Grain Act. I confess that I never knew very much about the subject; I trusted to my honourable friends from the West to direct the policy of the Senate in these matters. I am quite sure that in the other House the committee that considered this measure was composed of the ablest members who have knowledge of all the matters affecting the grain business.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: Honourable senators, I have attended meetings of the Grain Committee or the Committee on Agriculture for the last eight years. In my opinion it would be a gigantic task to examine the details of this Bill. I am in favour of adopting the third alternative suggested by the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), that we take this measure largely on trust. The committee of the other House that had charge of this legislation heard experts on all sides of the question, and apparently the amendments are at present satisfactory to all the interests concerned. I feel sure that the Act will not be satisfactory next