

have been very few occasions when his decisions have been proven wrong. In that connection I think even his strongest political opponents have great admiration for him. So on behalf of eastern Canadian farmers, particularly the farmers of my province, I want to pay a tribute to this great man. I hope he will be spared for many years to serve as Minister of Agriculture of Canada.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt:** I would like to ask the honourable senator a question. Naturally, I do not oppose the bill. To preface my question I will read part of subsection 2 of section 2:

The Governor in Council may by order grant to any board or agency mentioned in subsection (1) authority,

(b) in relation to the powers that may be granted to such board or agency under this Act with respect to the marketing of any agricultural product in interprovincial and export trade, to fix, impose and collect levies . . .

Let us take as an example the marketing of maple products of the province of Quebec. The honourable senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Taylor) stated this morning that two-thirds of the producers would have to join an organization before it could be set up under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act. Now, the other one-third, let us say, are members of co-operative organizations, but they are required to pay into the marketing organization set up under the act. Now, can that marketing organization impose and collect levies or charges from persons who are members of a co-operative organization?

According to this bill, the marketing organization under it will have authority to collect levies from every farmer connected with, let us say, the milk industry. It will be very hard to collect from individual farmers a levy of one cent or a quarter of a cent and so on.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland):** I am not just sure what the Quebec law requires in relation to the percentage of farmers who must belong to a board before it comes into operation. In New Brunswick there is a provision in the corresponding provincial act that the proportion shall be not less than two-thirds, but in most provinces, in the marketing of certain commodities, the minister requires at least 80 per cent, and in some instances 100 per cent participation. I can only give you as an illustration the marketing of cheese in New Brunswick. We had about 80 per cent of the cheese producers in favour of it and 20 per cent not in favour, and owing to the small number of producers engaged in producing milk for cheese making I was not satisfied and I told the organization

when it came to me that we must have 100 per cent co-operation of this group before we would think of bringing a board into existence.

It is true that the authority of any board does not necessarily cover all the province; it may only have authority over a commodity produced in a certain area of the province. In such a case, producers of the commodity outside that area do not come within the jurisdiction of the board.

Regardless of what the Quebec law requires as to the percentage of producers needed to set up a board, once in operation the board requires that all producers shall market through the board in an orderly manner and pay a levy, or a levy will be deducted from money owing to them, to cover the expenses of the operation of the board and in some cases to provide, shall I say reserves. For instance, our Cheese Marketing Board in New Brunswick, when cheese prices are high, deducts a certain amount from the farmers' returns and builds up a reserve so that we are able to maintain a uniform price throughout the year even during the time when prices received for cheese are low. That is one of the proper functions of the board, I believe.

**Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt:** In the province of Quebec 75 per cent of the farmers must have joined before the organization can operate, but as to the other 25 per cent, has the organization authority to require them to pay a levy to the board? This is important, because if the price of the product is increased it is probably done through the operation of the board, and farmers who do not pay any levy receive the same price.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland):** I think, honourable senators, that all producers in the area in which the board is functioning must market through that board. I grant you there is a form of compulsion in it, but it is only compulsion by the group, by the farmers themselves, not by the Government. When the product is marketed through the board, the board must deduct the expenses of its operation from the returns due the farmers or producers.

**Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt:** I suppose, then, if 80 per cent of the producers sign a contract with this marketing organization the other 20 per cent are obliged to join?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland):** Yes.

**Hon. Norman P. Lambert:** May I ask the honourable senator from Westmorland if the administration of boards under this measure will be a matter of responsibility for the Governor in Council or the minister?