

The LAW CLERK: I think this expresses the principle:—

Ships carrying cargo from Maritime ports in Canada and outside to the St. Lawrence river and Great Lakes, but loading in the Great Lakes for St. Lawrence ports only return cargoes destined for Maritime ports, be exempt from the provisions of this Act.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Maritime ports or outside.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: I would suggest that as the word "Maritime" has acquired with us a certain meaning, it might be well for the Law Clerk to make certain that it would be appropriate to express Senator Black's purpose.

The LAW CLERK: I was only trying to express the principle; the phrasing would follow.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Mr. Chairman, the motion seems to hinge on the Maritime question. While not a member of the Committee, I know a little about the Maritimes. If this exemption is put into force, what is the position between Canada Steamship Lines on the Great Lakes and the Interprovincial Steamship Company referred to yesterday, both doing the same trade as between a lake port and a port in the Maritimes; will one be controlled and the other not?

The CHAIRMAN: That is the way Mr. Doherty said it would be.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: I have listened to the discussion, but I can see no real reason for this amendment. I have received a telegram from the Charlotte-town Board of Trade, but there is no argument in it; it is based on fear, born of want of knowledge of what is in the Bill and its application. I should like one of the lawyers to answer the question I have put in regard to the application of the rate.

The CHAIRMAN: I understood it was admitted, senator, that there was no question the traffic in which these two companies engaged would be in this position, one would be controlled in rates and regulations, the other would not be.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: I do not think that would be fair.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is the view the Minister takes.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Question.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Would the Minister prefer to have all shipping exempted from the Bill?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes! And some of my friends in the West have suggested that wheat should be exempted.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would suggest a fish board for the Maritime Provinces, so fish could be controlled, the Government to buy the fish and bear any loss, and hand over any profit to the fishermen of the Maritimes.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This will be a fine country if we are to have a piecemeal policy with the principle of the Government supporting the load.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Mr. Chairman, I for one hold that regulation is a bad thing and should only be resorted to when it is absolutely necessary. A strong case has been out for the need of regulation somewhere within the territory to which this Bill is to apply because of a state of chaos prevailing there. Is it true that this chaotic state prevails only on the Great Lakes? If it does not prevail anywhere else, why try to treat the rest of the country which is perfectly healthy? If this chaotic state prevails only on the Great Lakes, I do not see any objection to limiting the operation of this Bill. If there is discrimination and chaos only on the Great Lakes, I think my honourable friends from the Maritime Provinces have made out a strong case.