

(Mr. McKenzie), I happened to be present when the Minister of Agriculture introduced his Bill of last year, and I remember distinctly that he stated that the Bill was in a measure tentative, that it was being advanced in a sort of provisional way so as to allow Parliament to become seized of its nature. If I mistake not, the hon. minister indicated that it was in no sense to be considered perfect in form. In these circumstances the change simply reflects the mature and considered reasoning that the minister has given to the Bill, so that the argument of my hon. friend bears very lightly on the matter. One thing that has struck me in connection with the discussion of this Bill is that there is not a united opposition to it. There seems to be a good deal of miscellaneous criticism without very much merit, to my mind. Of course, I quite appreciate the view of the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie), and I agree with him. I regret to say that I am not in a position to appreciate so highly the attitude of the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt.) The other night I was surprised to hear him state that the people of that county did not agree with this Bill, that they were so excellent of their kind that they did not want any boon or advantage.

Mr. NESBITT: I did not say that. I said I did not think they would get any advantage from it. I do not want the hon. member to put any words in my mouth that I did not utter. I am perfectly willing to stand by anything I said, but I do not propose to allow him to make a speech for me.

Mr. MORPHY: I would be very sorry to make a speech for any hon. gentleman like that which my hon. friend delivered the other night. I do not propose to dwell upon it, I merely wish to express my surprise. No matter what the hon. gentleman says, he rather repudiated the idea on that occasion that there was anything good in the Bill.

Mr. NESBITT: I did nothing of the kind.

Mr. MORPHY: My hon. friend said he would print his speech and send it through the county, and that he would stand by it. He certainly deprecated the idea that the people would get any good out of the Bill. The criticism which has been offered in this House has been of two kinds. One hon. gentleman says that we should exercise control over these moneys, while another says that we should not exercise control over them. I do not wish to use language that is too severe, but hon. gentlemen opposite have indicated in a general way that they cannot trust the provincial governments to expend the money. Other hon. gentlemen want the

money to be sent holus-bolus to the provincial governments. Our friends opposite seem to be mixed in the half-hearted attack, which they are making upon this Bill, which to my mind is one of the greatest boons that could be given to a most deserving class of people, no matter to what province they belong. I think I am safe in saying that all the provincial governments that have had this Bill under consideration have expressed approval of it; they have heartily welcomed it, and are desirous of seeing it put into force. But in this House an attempt has been made to attack the Bill not in a bold courageous way, but simply with the view of delaying its progress.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. McKENZIE: Who is delaying it now?

Mr. MORPHY: I am for a few moments, for the purpose of saying what I want to say. I do not think it is right that a discussion of this kind should go on without my taking the opportunity to clear up some false impressions that have been created in the public mind, or that may be created in the public mind, if the public listens to criticism of the kind that has been offered in this House. It has been said that we lose control over the moneys. I look at section 5 of the Bill and I find it reads as follows:

The payments hereinbefore authorized shall, as to each province, be conditional upon agreement between the minister and the Government of the province as to the terms, conditions and purposes, within the meaning of this Act, upon and for which the payments are to be made and applied, and such agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

Clause 8 of the Bill provides:

The minister shall annually lay before Parliament, during the first ten days of the session, a report of all proceedings under this Act for the last preceding fiscal year, which report shall contain a full and accurate statement of moneys expended, the purposes to which they have been applied and the work done by the several provinces in the earning of the subsidies paid or authorized to be paid.

That clause provides for the bringing into this House of a report of all the details of the expenditures of the previous year. It is impossible to have that until one year has elapsed. That report, having been laid on the table, is open to any hon. member of this House. If there is anything wrong, if any mistake has been made, it is open to be corrected in the agreement that will be made for the following year. I understand the Bill to mean that an agreement will be made yearly and in that very power rests the opportunity of this Government to exercise a reasonable control and to correct any abuse that may be pointed out