

products or those who consume the products, agree that there has been felt a need for some legislation or action which would tend to reduce to a minimum the wastage which now exists in our more or less haphazard method of marketing, and also that steps should be taken as far as possible to stabilize the prices of products of the primary producers.

In endeavouring to give effect to this desire or much felt need, we set out to prepare a bill which for some weeks has been under discussion both in the house and in committee of the whole house. In the preparation of it we gave careful study, first, to other marketing bills which have been passed and have been in force in various countries. However, after careful examination of these bills and the boards set up by such legislation we felt that the conditions with which they were formed to deal were so different from those confronting us in connection with the marketing and regulation of marketing of the primary products of Canada, that they could be of little use to us, certainly could not be adopted as a model, and could be used only as a guide here and there in the preparation of our bill.

It was therefore decided that we must first have clearly before us the conditions we wished to remedy in order to prepare a bill peculiarly suitable and adaptable to the conditions in Canada with which it had to deal. In the preparation of the bill we had numerous discussions with cooperative associations, private individuals engaged in primary production, and with the trade. In the first draft of the bill we had made it much more definite, dealing to a greater extent with specific commodities. But as other problems were presented it was felt that the very definiteness of it, limiting it to particular problems, made it inapplicable to the marketing of other products. Therefore the bill underwent a gradual change, becoming more comprehensive and, as one hon. member stated in discussion, became more in the nature of a skeleton of a bill which could be filled in and could better meet the varying conditions. This was also necessary so that every possibility of full cooperation between the provinces and the dominion could be brought about.

The fundamental principles of the bill as submitted to the house are briefly these: First, as far as was possible and as far as was indicated by organizations of primary producers to place in their own hands the marketing of their own products. Secondly, in case of emergency or in dealing with a

primary product concerning which, due to geographical and other reasons it was difficult for the producers to organize, where it was felt by the government that some assistance or organization should be arranged, power is given the government to deal with such emergency or condition on its merits.

Then, in the third place, power is given in the bill to investigate spreads, or the cost of marketing, thereby giving an assurance to the producers that they will not be exploited in the marketing of their product, an assurance which applies similarly to the purchaser of such products. Then, power was given in the bill to deal with the importation and exportation of natural or primary products into and out of the dominion, so that under the different conditions in which we find ourselves we would have the machinery to enable us to take our place among the trading nations of the world.

Then, lastly, provision is made in the bill to enable complete cooperation between the provincial bodies to be set up and the federal bodies which may be set up. I give this brief review for this reason: It was no surprise when the bill was up for discussion that many hon. members should have traversed the very paths which we pursued in the preparation of the bill. They had in mind some specific commodities with which they wanted the bill to deal. However, although realizing that if the measure were so defined it would become ineffective as regards other commodities, yet as the amendments proposed did not in any way affect what we felt we had already set out in the bill and for which we had made definite provision and to set at rest the doubts of some persons, we accepted amendments to the bill based on the requests and desires of hon. members as evidenced in the discussion.

I believe therefore that it would be of interest to the house if I were to put on record a short analysis of the effect of the amendments to the bill as first brought down, to bear out the statement I have made as to why the amendments were introduced and accepted.

#### 1. Principle

The fundamental principle embodied in this bill is that of governmental sanction and support of regulated marketing by producers and other persons engaged in such activity, supplemented by direct governmental action when unusual conditions warrant such procedure. The amendments have in no way altered this principle.