

It is altogether too great, and it has been a matter for consideration for a number of years. Many contributing factors come in between the producer and the consumer which it would be very difficult to eliminate, and a marketing board, no matter how well organized, or how well clothed with all the necessary authority, will find it very difficult to wipe out entirely all these in-between costs. True, as the minister has pointed out, marketing conditions have changed completely within the last fifteen or eighteen years. They have changed completely within my lifetime. I remember when I marketed the produce of my farm under exactly the same conditions as the minister described to-night, but I cannot do it to-day, and I doubt very much if I shall ever be able to do it again. Why? Because in our endeavours to protect both the producer and the consumer, to ensure the marketing of a higher quality of goods, we have established an elaborate system of inspection from one end of this country to the other. As was stated by a previous speaker, we know that in every stockyard in Canada there are inspectors of our live stock. Our poultry and poultry products, our milk and other dairy products, are all subjected to inspection before going on the local market. To-day it is not as it was in former days when our wives would go and sell our produce on the market without any inspection whatever. Unfortunately sometimes they were sold short. I do not want to be misunderstood; I am not decriing the value of inspection. I believe it is all to the good, but I merely point out that we have set up this very elaborate system of inspection for practically all our produce going on the domestic market, and this system makes it impossible for me as a producer to avoid certain costs that are inevitably entailed. These costs, of course, must be paid by someone and they usually come back to the producer himself.

But if a reasonable board is set up, an in-between board, that will seek to reduce some of the costs that are entailed to-day and yet maintain all the necessary inspection services, I am all for it. I sincerely believe that a board of that kind could be very helpful. On the other hand, I agree with those hon. gentlemen who have criticized, and to my mind so effectively, the provisions of this bill and have said that we have entirely too much machinery, too much duplication of effort all along the line. I am of the opinion that had Mr. McFarland, who to-day is a marketing board in his own person, equipped with the necessary facilities and supplied with plenty of money to carry on the business, been given

control at the very inception of the marketing of our wheat we would not have had so much wheat on our hands as we are carrying in Canada at the present moment.

I do not see that all this elaborate machinery of local boards right back to the producer is needed unless it is for the purpose of making this marketing act compulsory upon those who do not wish to come under its benefits, and therein I foresee serious difficulty. I believe that in British Columbia there is a milk producers' organization comprising all but about ten per cent of the producers, and the complaint is that that ten per cent causes all the difficulty and makes the work of that organization of no effect. Just as I object to compulsory, coercive methods anywhere, I object to the provision of this bill that when a majority of those interested in any given locality decide to organize a marketing board, then by the authority of the minister the remainder of the producers of the community must come in or suffer the consequences, and under some of the provisions of this measure the consequences of refusal on the part of the individual producer are serious. I may be wrong, but in my judgment he will have to submit or go out of business, one or the other. That does not sound very good to what my hon. friends across the way used to call red-blooded Canadians. It does not sound very good to me. I do not think we in Canada have arrived at the stage where we can afford to take action of that sort.

There are a good many provisions in this bill which I do not like. I am not going to traverse the ground which has been covered by hon. gentlemen who have preceded me, but while I am on the compulsory features of the act, when it is realized that by section 9 the minister himself, upon request or otherwise, without consulting the community involved at all, may by order in council impose willy-nilly upon that community a marketing board without any vote on the part of the producers, without the consent of any of them, I think it will be agreed that that is pretty drastic. The minister may think that he requires these drastic provisions. I am bound to say that in my opinion in any community where that is tried the scheme is bound to be a dismal failure; it could not be otherwise, because Canadians will not submit to that kind of thing.

Perhaps the minister will explain when the time comes, but all along I have failed to understand the necessity for so much compulsion being embodied in this bill. Perhaps inherently I am one of those who believe