

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think we have been here long enough. Four hours is plenty for any committee to work.

Mr. McNEVIN: Oh, let us stay a while. We do not have to sit in the house to-night.

Mr. TUCKER: I will only be about five minutes longer myself.

*By Mr. Tucker:*

Q. One of the questions about any nationally controlled institution is that if it is nationally controlled the centre of gravity and control would, in that institution be in central Canada, and would there not be the thought at times, on the one hand, that other parts of Canada were not getting a fair deal because they did not have a majority on the board of control; and, on the other hand, might it not become very true that political power would be used at the expense of the minority even worse than it is under the present system?—A. How much trouble have you had with the post office?

Q. The difference between the post office, where you give the same sort of service to every part of the country, and a system where different parts of the country want an industry established there and will be asking for credit; where it will be a matter based on the honesty and integrity and ability of one particular group as compared with another, and the thought that political influences were being brought to bear, and sectional influences and so on were being brought to bear. I just wondered if you had considered the possibility of the west going to the board that runs this national bank and taking the attitude, "here, we want money to get this particular industry established; if you do not grant it we will say it is a political decision". And is not practically every decision we have made under a nationally owned banking system—is it not going to be either a political decision or at least alleged to be one?—A. Well, I think the answer to that is that you and I, Mr. Tucker, have got to get more people into the province of Saskatchewan, and some of the other fellows have got to get more people into the province of Manitoba and into the province of Alberta in order that we can get greater representation. You know, I have not entirely lost confidence in a democratic form of government, and I still believe that a democratic government can administer the affairs of the nation, whatever those affairs may be. I will take an illustration. It has not to do with the loaning of money, I know; but we have in the city of Regina a concern that has been promoted and put into operation by the dominion government to manufacture guns, and I think they have shown that they have manufactured guns as efficiently and effectively as has been done in any other part of the Dominion of Canada. That is a government-owned institution. I believe that we can administer anything that the nation wants to administer in the interest of the people just as efficiently and just as effectively.

Q. But that brings up the point that we, being a minority in western Canada, might be absolutely under the control of a government which has its centre of gravity here in eastern Canada and which might be inclined to find work for the people in central Canada and would always be claiming that industry could be established much more efficiently here than in western Canada; and would not the tendency be by having a board that was run by a national government to further centralize things in central Canada—even more so than to-day?—A. It is up to you and to me to prove that it can be done just as effectively and as efficiently in our places as it can be done anywhere else. I cannot have any tolerance with the thought and idea that you could not have a great deal of manufacturing enterprise take place in western Canada. I know we will continue to have the opposition of eastern Canada because they want it—

The CHAIRMAN: No, no.

The WITNESS: It is there. We are not getting the development out west that we ought to, but I am not giving up hope that it cannot be done.