

veniently carried on in connection with the business of the association, or calculated directly or indirectly to enhance the value or render profitable any of its property or rights;

(f) apply for, and purchase or otherwise acquire any patents, licenses, concessions conferring any exclusive or non-exclusive or limited rights to use, or any secret or other information as to any invention which may seem capable of being used for any of the purposes of the association, or the acquisition of which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to benefit the association, and may use, exercise, develop or grant licenses in respect of, or otherwise turn to account the property, rights, or information so acquired;

(g) enter into any arrangement with any authorities, municipal, local or otherwise, that may seem conducive to the association's objects, and obtain from any such authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the association thinks desirable, and may carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions;

(h) acquire and hold shares in any company or association having objects together or in part similar to those of the association or carrying on any business capable of being conducted so as directly or indirectly to benefit the association;

(i) draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants and other negotiable and transferable instruments.

It seems to me that while the old Act limited this association generally to millers, doing a milling business, who required to get grain, this makes out of it a company to buy, sell and ship and own vessels—aiming at the same kind of work which the original incorporators in this company claimed was so detrimental to them, namely, the obtaining by the big milling companies of control of the grain supply and putting the small workers at a disadvantage. This is a Bill which requires to be looked into very carefully before we decide to pass it. It may give rise to many evils which we may not see at a moment's glance to-day.

Mr. A. H. CLARKE. I have no interest in the Bill; but, as it was before the committee of which I was a member, I may be allowed to say a word. I would be glad, like my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. A. M. Martin), if any one would suggest what possible harm could come from the incorporation of a company or the granting of the additional power proposed. The committee endeavoured to find if any such interest would be jeopardized. There were men of affairs there, for instance, the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Fowke) who is in the shipping business, the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Harty) and others. It had been suggested that there might be some room here for combination or something of that sort; but, so far

MR. SPROULE.

as the committee were able to discover, after hearing the member of the company who was there, and comparing this Bill with the acts of similar companies, we could not discover that any interest would be jeopardized, but, on the contrary, that competition would be increased, which we thought would be for the benefit of the farmers having grain to sell. It means the addition of one more competitor in the market for the purchase of grain. I have not the slightest objection, if it is thought that anything would be gained by further consideration. I know the promoter of the Bill the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Harris) does not know anything about the Bill. It was put in his name, but beyond that he was not able, in the committee, to give us information or render us assistance. There is one point I have thought might possibly require guarding, and that is in subsection (d) where it is provided that the company are not to fix the price for buying. It might possibly be right to go further and say that the company shall not fix their selling price. The committee thought that the law of combines would cover that. But this is one company, and it might be said that there would be no infringement of the combine law if they were to regulate the price at which their own members would sell. I would be inclined to add a proviso that the company should not determine the price at which they should buy or the price at which they should sell. That, it seems to me, is the only way in which they can possibly combine under this Bill to do harm.

Mr. JOHN HAGGART. The objection to this is the same as to every other combine. Here you give powers for the incorporation of mill owners. And for what purpose? For buying which they are to grind and selling the products of that grain after manufacture. If it is a harm for fifty or sixty millers to combine, surely there is harm in this. It occurred to me that we might remedy the difficulty by providing that any mill owner should be at liberty to join this association and that no individual should be placed at a disadvantage in joining it or belonging to it, but that all should have equal rights in it. But, unless—

Mr. A. H. CLARKE. Would not the regulations provide for all these things?

Mr. JOHN HAGGART. The regulations do not provide for them. You are giving them special power to do certain things under the law. I doubt very much whether, under the regulations against combines—

Mr. A. H. CLARKE. I did not refer to those regulations, but to the by-laws and regulations of the company. Any one