

which the prosecution was instituted, shall, unless the accused proves the contrary, be deemed to relate to the marketing of an agricultural product in interprovincial and export trade.

I am explaining this bill from the layman's point of view, and I accept the decisions and recommendations that have been given by the various legal authorities in Canada. I understand that the legal representatives of all the provincial boards, and, I believe, most of the provincial Attorneys General, have approved of the wording of this particular section. Certainly the Attorney General for Ontario has approved it, as has the Minister of Justice for Canada.

The reason for this subsection, as I understand it, is this: in the province of Ontario, for instance, there are at the present time 17 boards marketing products under provincial legislation, and handling about 30 commodities, such as small fruits and vegetables, peas, corn, tomatoes and the like. When a board sells a product to a processor it has no way of knowing where that product is sold or consumed. Only the processors and certain transportation organizations know where products, after they are processed, are sold and consumed within Canada. This section is required in order to clarify the situation and to legalize what is being done, and to make the various boards operative to the greatest possible degree.

Honourable senators, I do not think I need say anything further about this proposed legislation, except to repeat what I said earlier, that in the field of agriculture, great strides have been made over the past decade in the matter of production. This is due largely to mechanization, new and modern techniques, and the know-how by the agricultural producers themselves. This progress is evidenced by the fact that between the years 1946 and 1955 Canadian farmers produced 30 per cent more than they had prior to that time, with 30 per cent fewer people engaged in agriculture. That indicates the reasonably good job that has been done in production.

With respect to grading, packaging and marketing, the farmers themselves realize the burden of the undertaking, but they want to do the job themselves. They do not want to ask Governments to do it for them; they ask their Government to give them the machinery whereby they can do the job themselves. So at this time I want to pay tribute again not only to the farm organizations, and to the members of the various boards, but to the individual farmer who has made possible the setting up of organizations for proper packaging and grading, so that there will be an orderly marketing program.

I approve of this bill in its entirety, and I trust that honourable senators will vote unanimously for its adoption.

Before resuming my seat I should like to take this opportunity of making a personal reference. I trust honourable senators will forgive me for doing so. Prior to October 8, 1952 it was claimed that I had the distinction of holding a portfolio in agriculture for more consecutive years than any other person in the British Empire. I have been told that is true, and I believe it is true.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland): On October 8, 1952, the day I resigned from the provincial cabinet along with my colleagues, that mantle of distinction as to length of tenure of a portfolio in agriculture fell upon the shoulders of my good friend the Right Honourable James G. Gardiner, about whom I would like to say a few words.

I doubt if anyone in this chamber knows Mr. Gardiner in his official capacity better than I do. During the 17 years that I was a minister in my own province there were many occasions when I appeared before him and the other members of the cabinet with respect to matters pertaining to agriculture. May I say that we did not always agree; indeed, we often had a bonnie scrap. The right honourable gentleman was always at his best when in a fight. But I wish at this time to express my warm regards for Mr. Gardiner, who to me is a great agriculturist, a great administrator and a great Canadian. The record shows that he has been in public life since 1914, during which time he was out of Parliament for only five years. He served some 12 years or more in the Saskatchewan Government, four years as a minister and four years as Premier. For twenty-two consecutive years he has served as Minister of Agriculture for Canada. That, I believe, is not only a British Empire record but a world record. It is a fine record in any man's language. And while, as I say, I have not agreed with him on a number of occasions, I must admit that to me he has been and is the greatest Minister of Agriculture Canada has ever had.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland): He has been foremost in recognizing farmers' problems from coast to coast. I say that for eastern Canada as well as western Canada, because I know something of his activities. At times some of us thought he did not act soon enough or quickly enough, but I think when you go back over his record in the application of policies and the working out of legislation which he has introduced there