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influence by the mere prestige of a very large holding, although he would only have one vote. But such a prestige might destroy the perfect equality that should dominate.

*By Mr. Bourassa:*

Q. I intended to put that question. One of the points to be remembered is that whatever shares a man may have he has only one vote?—A. Oh, yes, he has only one vote, that is all.

Q. There cannot be any control on account of the number of shares held by any one member?—A. There cannot be any question but that of the mere prestige I have mentioned.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. Influence?—A. Influence. We have thought it better to keep that in the hands of the general meeting subject absolutely to the previous approval and recommendation of the board of administration, who, as part of their duties, have to study any possible change in the by-laws; the general meeting having no right to initiate such modification. We always study the circumstances and see whether it is advisable or not to increase or decrease the maximum number of shares to be possessed by one member. On the other hand it must be remembered that a member who wishes to increase his capital, as we are doing business with very small funds, is to be encouraged, because there is so much thrift, so much money put aside, and of course the shares are bringing a higher return than the mere deposits. So far as the deposits are concerned the amount is not limited; a member may deposit whatever sum he wishes.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Ten thousand dollars?—A. Well, of course he may, but it is not likely.

*By Mr. Gervais:*

Q. You are explaining the organization simply as a company for the carrying on of a banking business. As I understand, under this Bill, any kind of business may be carried on by any co-operative company?

Mr. MONK.—Mr. Desjardins was just explaining the banking clauses.

A. We were just taking up that part of the general question of co-operation because the banking operations are to be carried on within the precincts of an electoral district only, a very small area.

*By Mr. Gervais:*

Q. Do I understand you to say that any kind of business which may be carried on by these companies will have a limited field of action?—A. No, not by the Bill—

Q. It will be merely local?—A. Not by the Bill as it is now. The other business—

Q. The other business will be local?—A. Not by the Bill as it is now.

Mr. SMITH (Nanaimo).—Only the banking.

*By Mr. Gervais:*

Q. Only the banking business? Do you mean to say a co-operative association can be started in Montreal and that it will be enabled to do business throughout Canada?—A. I think so by the Bill as it is now.

Q. Because I think that the whole Bill is unconstitutional?—A. I shall come, I hope, later on, to that point relating to the other forms of co-operative associations. I quite understand that the law will cover many other branches of economic activity, there should be no mistake about it. And as I will show later, I have found that insurance in small localities could be carried on, or should be allowed to be carried on, under co-operative systems with very great advantages to the members thereof.

Q. In the province of Quebec?—A. Yes.