

gives the stock raiser all that the market will stand.

Mr. BURRELL: I explained the purpose of the Bill when I introduced it, and it was also discussed fully in the Agricultural Committee. The purpose is precisely the opposite of what my hon. friend seems to fear. The department have been looking into the stock yards feature for two years, and this Bill is the result of a widespread and insistent demand of the stock raisers, owing to abuses in stock yards which they wish to have remedied by governmental regulation. They have felt that commission men occasionally were not to be relied upon, that their charges were too high, that they acted in collusion, and that, in the management of the stockyards, there was sometimes discrimination in such things as the allocation of space. There were also long-standing grievances in regard to the charging of exorbitant prices for feed for stock and the furnishing of poor feed and complaints respecting weighing etc. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction, especially in the West. The purpose of the Bill is two-fold, to exercise control over the owners and managers of stock yards, and to make all commission men belong to a live stock exchange whose constitution and by-laws shall be submitted to the approval of the minister, in order that control may be exercised over the operations of the exchange. There is, however, nothing to prevent a private owner going to any stockyard and selling his own cattle. Our whole object is to improve the conditions as they affect the raiser of live stock, by giving him a fairer deal in his market than in the past. Some of the strongest demands have come from the Western Live Stock Union, and we have had telegrams saying they are heartily in sympathy with the Bill. After the first meeting of the Agricultural Committee, a personal letter, with the Bill, was sent to every live stock yard management and to every live stock association, and suggestions were invited. We have received no adverse comment, but we have had approval of the object of the Bill.

Mr. OLIVER: Following what the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. R. B. Bennett) has said, the term "exchange" has a sinister sound to our people in the West. We have had very serious experiences which we believe have grown out of the power and the authority of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. It is many years since the grain producers of the West became convinced that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was, in

[Mr. Robb.]

its operations, a detriment to the welfare of the people of that country. The Government has practically eliminated the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and to-day it is out of business—and I think there are no mourners except those who were members of it. That being the experience of the West in regard to the Grain Exchange, the minister will have to pardon us if we are somewhat timorous about the establishment of a live-stock exchange. We have at Edmonton a stock yard which was started last fall by a number of enterprising local men and is operated simply as a stock yard proposition—that is, the owners are not dealers in live-stock. That has been of great benefit to the stock producers of that part of the country.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH: Has that stock yard been a financial success?

Mr. OLIVER: I do not know whether it has been beneficial to the investors, but it has been of great advantage to the producers of live-stock throughout the country, a vast benefit to the live-stock producers of Northern Alberta in ways not thought of when the stock yards were established.

It has been, for instance, a means of exchange between the parts of the country that were perhaps short of feed and the parts of the country that had abundance of feed. A great deal of trade was done last fall in cattle through the stock yards in that line, which was of vast benefit to the stock interests of the country. Buyers have come from Toronto to buy at those stock yards. So far as the business end of the stock yards is concerned, they have been of very great benefit to the stock industry, and, as far as we can see, will continue to be a benefit. There has been, I take it, no stock exchange there, up to the present time. For my part, I would be very desirous of seeing the present conditions continue. I do not want to see any legalized combination amongst the men who are buying on commission at that stock yard.

Mr. MORPHY: Is there no association?

Mr. OLIVER: No, not so far as I am aware at present. The men are there acting individually. The United Farmers of Alberta has one commission buyer there. I forget the name of the other association, but there are two that I know of, and I believe several others.

Mr. MORPHY: Are there no regulations or rules?

Mr. OLIVER: I could not say anything about that. There may be regulations or