

Parliament at least. Therefore I feel that the legislation ought to be passed, but that it ought not to go into effect until the differences between the interests concerned have been terminated in a reasonable way. The proposal that has been referred to just now, and by previous speakers, was not made to the pool until about the time this legislation came before this House, so far as I know, and therefore it may well be that the gentlemen who constitute the board of directors of the pool have not as yet had the time or opportunity to give it full consideration. It may well be that they will come to a conclusion that that is the honest and proper thing to do, to get facilities of their own at reasonable prices at all those country points, as they have provided themselves already with facilities at about 800 points. But they ought not to be put by law in a position of being able to go out and crowd the non-pool farmers, and force the grain through the pool elevators in which those farmers have no interest, to their own advantage.

It may be that non-pool farmers, by reason of circumstances that could easily be imagined, might be forced to send their grain to pool elevators at the head of the Lakes, and therefore give the pool elevators an advantage in regard to non-pool grain. I am sure everybody will agree that it would not be fair to impose that upon them by law. We ought to leave both interests free to negotiate; we should put them on an even keel, equal in competition, and enable each of them to attempt to do the fair thing by negotiation; and when the Government were satisfied they had done that, the law would become operative by proclamation; but if the Government were satisfied that either party was not prepared to treat the other justly, the proclamation would not be issued.

I therefore approve of, and propose to support, the amendment of my honourable friend from Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird), and I hope that the reasons therefor may appear to my honourable friend to be logical.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: Wherein are the conditions set forth that must be complied with before the Governor in Council issues the proclamation?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: In the amendment of which my honourable friend from Regina has given notice, which is to follow this clause, if adopted, provision is made whereby the grain trade are required to sell to the pool elevators at the points where the pool have now no country elevator, under terms to be negotiated, or agreement if pos-

sible, and if not, then by arbitration. I think that is the text and intent of the next amendment, which, if adopted, will make this perfectly clear.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: Beyond that there is no provision made?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: No, that is quite true.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Would my honourable friend tell me if that offer to sell by the elevator companies includes the terminal elevators also?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: So far as I know, they were not considered; but I would point out that the pool interests have already about 25 per cent of the total elevator capacity at the head of the Lakes, and a little less than 20 per cent of country elevator capacity. The representations made to the Committee, as I understood, were that they were more in need of country capacity, but that they had last year more than double their elevator capacity at the head of the Lakes, and no doubt would continue to increase that.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Without having had an opportunity of looking into this amendment, and trying to judge some of its effects, it strikes me that if it were adopted and the pool secured a large number of elevators from the elevator companies throughout the West, while they have only a comparatively small proportion of the terminal facilities, the holders of the terminal elevators not owned by the pool would be able to hold the pool up for the handling of their grain. For instance, if they would not sell their terminal elevators to the pool they might compel the pool to build terminal facilities to a far greater extent than they have now.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I do not think there is any possible fear of that situation happening, from the fact that if the pool did not need more country elevators they could bring their terminal elevator capacity beyond what now exists.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But I think the honourable gentleman has made it quite clear that, in his mind, this Act would not be proclaimed if the facility which is given to the pool to buy 1,000 elevators were not taken advantage of by the pool.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I would not say 1,000: I would say whatever number in their judgment was necessary for their purpose. But if they did not take advantage of that, I would say that it would not be fair that the legislation should be proclaimed, and the pool