

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Then we agree. The trader's object is not to lose money, but to make money.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: My honourable friend cannot deny the fact that all cost of transportation is charged back to the producer, in the end.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No; I deny that.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: It is, certainly. It is all taken into consideration.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If my honourable friend will listen a little longer I shall, I think, convince him to the contrary. He should know that what I am saying is correct, for he is in the business. He is in business as a farmer. I said there were fifteen traders. I do not know exactly how many there are.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: The trader will look after himself.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Undoubtedly.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: And he charges back to the farmer.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No; he has bought outright from the farmer.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: It is considered when he is buying the grain.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes; but when buying he is reckoning on the freight he may pay from Fort William to Liverpool, and he takes good care not to be the loser on the bargain.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: If this Bill goes through it will mean an additional 5 or 6 cents out of the farmer's pocket.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When it was decided to establish the Railway Commission to regulate rates the railways objected, but later on they declared that it was a blessing that the Board had been established. I ask my honourable friend if he would be prepared to have the Railway Board done away with.

I say that the trader who buys grain for export figures out his costs from Fort William to Liverpool and then says to the farmer, "I will give you so much for your grain."

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: It is a gamble.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes; but when the farmer has in his pocket the cash for his wheat he does not stand to benefit from the trader's profit by chiseling at Fort William. The traders may gather together and fix rates, or they may act individually. I do not know what obtains in Winnipeg. I presume cer-

Hon. Mr. CALDER.

tain honourable gentlemen know more about what takes place there than I do. Those traders reckon upon what they will pay for the grain. Some may say, "I will charge half of one per cent less for the freight rate," while another may say that he will charge half of one per cent more. But a fair average is reached. Besides, the Liverpool price is quoted on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and the farmer cares very little as to what rate the trader will pay from Fort William to Liverpool so long as he gets his price as fixed on the exchange. Surely the trader, when reckoning what will be his cost, does not base his calculations on a possibly low shipping rate. He knows what shipping is available. As my honourable friend has just said, it is a gamble. The trader may gamble to a certain extent, but when he has bought that grain, and the gamble is profitable to him, he does not return any part of his profit to my honourable friend in the West.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: How about his losses?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He stands his losses. I wonder if any one of the dozen traders who buy most of the grain from the West, when fixing the rate which he will deduct from the price he pays, thinks of a possible chance of doing any kind of chiseling at Fort William. I doubt it very much. He may have it in mind to do some chiseling, but that is for his own profit, not for the farmer's. So I may fairly say, and I think no one will deny my statement, that the farmer when he sells his grain pays to the trader, not a very low rate, not a very high rate, but what, to satisfy my honourable friend, I may term a fair rate. When the farmer has sold his grain at Winnipeg his interest in it is ended. Who will deny that statement? And if the farmer's interest is ended, then he does not stand to share in the profits of the trader.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That would be so in the case of the individual farmer, but all farmers as a class are still interested in the freight rates.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Fifty per cent of the farmers of the West do not belong to the pools, and so I treat them as individuals. But even if they are acting together, the transaction in Winnipeg is the same.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: But whether the farmer belongs to a pool or not, he is interested in every item of cost that enters into his wheat before it finds its ultimate market.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes; that I admit; but I say this Bill contains nothing that tends to eliminate competition or to in-