

that way change himself into a bona fide settler. I think that ought to be very carefully considered; there should be some definite understanding as to what a bona fide farmer is.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am simply accepting the general trend of the amendment; I am not committing myself to it because I want time to consider it. The idea of the committee, I take it, is that they only want us to deal with the man who is in possession of the land and is actually farming it, having made an honest attempt to cultivate it, and not any individual who, never having put plough to the land, holds the place in speculation.

Mr. SPENCER: With regard to the payment for school lands, we shall hope that most purchasers will do their very best to make their settlements. But there are a few people who, after they have made one or two payments and taken off a few crops, will try to evade paying the balance. How long will such people be given before cancellation takes place?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): They are of course liable to cancellation on the first default, but if a man is making an honest attempt to cultivate the land and can give good reasons for not being able to meet his payments, we accept interest and part of the principal. Although there are some cases of shirking responsibility, we do not find very many attempts made to deliberately evade payment. If there is any fault to be found with us, it is rather that we write too many threatening letters. Certainly we make a serious endeavour to collect the money, but where there is likely to be hardship as a result of forced collections we seldom if ever take action. Of course, we are apt to be taken advantage of once in a while.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The section will be better with the amendment submitted or with some amendment along that line. I was surprised at the comment of the hon. member (Mr. Morrison); nothing of what he has in mind animates anyone that I know of. Nobody is refusing to do for the farmer what is done for any other person. This money does not belong to the country; all of it belongs to western Canada. The only wish of the committee is therefore to avoid adopting any principle which in its application might operate to the detriment of that fund on which the whole support of the school system in the west depends.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: The leader of the opposition (Mr. Meighen) has prefaced some remarks I should like to make with regard to this fund. I know for a fact that parcels of land are sold to individuals and payments made to the department, but the taxes are allowed to accumulate on those lands for probably eight, ten or twelve years. If the contract is cancelled and the money is still in the hands of the department, what is the attitude of the minister towards the local improvement district, including the schools, the rural telephone companies and other local governing bodies that are short of money and find it difficult to finance? If the department should have on hand money which, as the leader of the opposition says, belongs to western Canada, is it not reasonable that any taxes in arrears should be paid to the local municipalities?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The hon. member would lead me into dangerous channels if I attempted to discuss that question. Inasmuch as this is a trust fund we would have no authority to pay any of it to any individual or municipality. We must, in carrying out the trust, apply the money in payment to the trust fund itself. Nothing of the kind suggested could therefore be given consideration.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY

TRADE AND COMMERCE

The House in committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Trade and Commerce—operation and management of elevators, (for salaries, wages, power, fuel, insurance on grain at Port Arthur, registration, inspection and weighing fees, stationery, office rent, travelling auditors' fees, and miscellaneous expenses), \$475,000.

Hon. T. A. LOW (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The increase of \$55,000 in this item is due to the fact that there is another elevator at Edmonton, while one is being erected at Prince Rupert. There is also one in course of erection at Halifax. These three will consume the extra amount requested, in operating costs and salaries of staff.

Mr. STEVENS: The question has been under consideration for a considerable time, and the minister might now answer it, whether the title has actually passed to the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners of elevator No. 1 at Vancouver.

Mr. LOW: The title has passed.

Mr. EVANS: Will the elevator at Halifax be ready for the handling of grain this com-