

ables parties who want only one or two carloads of grain to get them by entering into a combination of this kind, and sending a buyer into the market to buy two or three hundred carloads. Two or three hundred may be purchased cheaper than a couple might be able to do. It may be all right for an individual mill owner to belong to a concern of this kind, but the powers granted should be strictly guarded so that no advantage may be taken of individual mill owners who are not in it.

Mr. BLAIN. I do not wish to say anything special on the merits of the Bill, but I think there is sufficient opposition to it to justify our allowing to give further explanation. While it may not be written law, it is a well observed custom that when the introducer of a Bill is absent we should not proceed with it if there be any opposition.

Mr. A. M. MARTIN. There appears to be quite a misunderstanding regarding freight rates. The freight rate must be approved by the Railway Commission and printed and published before coming into effect. No society of any kind has any power or right over the freight rates of any company. Any man who wishes, may go into a railway freight office in any part of the Dominion and get a copy of the freight rates. There is no difference in freight rates, but there is a milling rate which gives the miller the right to take the grain into his mill cheaper than the rate to an ordinary shipper who buys to sell. The reason of this is that the miller ships the product over the same road. That is all the preference he gets. This association has been in existence since 1902. The members of it are all responsible men who have been carrying on a legitimate business under it. The association was formed, as the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Clarke) has said, to compete against the larger mills. They have the right to buy grain under their charter and all they now ask is the right to sell grain. That is about all the difference. I see no harm in this. I was on the sub-committee with the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Clarke) and we went over the Bill very carefully and made one or two changes. The Bill itself does not differ from some other Bills. I had before me a Bill to incorporate the Maritime Milling Company, and its terms are precisely similar. As regards arbitration, this association is not asking for more powers than are given the board of trade. The only case of arbitration it has ever had is one which is before it now, so that if there have been, as the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has said, other cases, they had no connection with this company whatever.

Mr. SPROULE. This company is asking for very much larger powers. Section 3 in the old Act is as follows:

The objects of the association are to promote, extend, and improve the manufacture of flour and meal, the business of flour milling generally in Canada, and the shipping and sale to foreign markets, as well as to the markets of this country, of grain, flour and meal, and to assist the members of the association with regard to the matters aforesaid, as provided by by-law, and to arbitrate, adjust, settle and determine controversies and misunderstandings between persons engaged in the said trades, or such as are submitted for arbitration as hereinafter provided; but nothing herein contained shall be construed as constituting the association a trading company, or empowering them to engage as a trading association in the business of buying and selling grain, flour or other merchandise; nor shall the association, by rule, regulation, by-law or otherwise, fix or determine, or endeavour to fix or determine, in any way whatever, the price that the members or any of them shall pay or offer for grains in Canada.

That is to be repealed and the following substituted:

The association may carry on the business of purchasing, selling, storing, shipping and dealing in grain—

Just what the other provides they shall not do.

—and manufacturing, buying and selling flour and other products of grain and may construct, acquire, operate, hire, lease, sell or otherwise dispose of elevators for elevating wheat, grain or other products, and acquire, lease and utilize, hydraulic, electric or other power for the purpose of the said business, and generally may carry on an elevator and storage business;

(b) construct, acquire, charter, operate, sell, lease and otherwise dispose of all kinds of vessels and boats, and wharfs, docks, workshops, stations and other buildings.

These are very much more extensive powers than the others and would seem to have very little relation to this association, but would rather appertain to a transportation company.

(c) acquire and hold shares in any ships, and manage, navigate and operate such ships and may acquire shares in any company incorporated for the purpose of owning, managing and operating ships and may lease, hire and charter any such ship and do all acts and things for the promotion, extension and improvement of the manufacture of flour and meal, and the business of flour milling generally, and the shipping and sale of flour and grain and other products in foreign markets as well as in the markets of Canada, and assist the members of the association with regard thereto.

Then we have subsection (e).

(e) carry on any other business which may seem to the association capable of being con-