

whether an exchange has conducted its business on proper lines. It would also involve the bonding of the commission men on the exchange. There may be cases, particularly in the West, where farmers ship their live-stock long distances, and some commission men may not always do the fair thing. At the present time there is no check upon them. We propose to have them bonded and to have the by-laws of the live-stock exchange submitted to our approval, so that all along the line there may be a fair knowledge of the transactions which are made, and some guarantee that reasonable treatment will be accorded to the producer. It is chiefly in the interests of the producer that this Bill is brought forward. My information is that no stockyards management will object to reasonable government regulation, and I do not think they should object. There are many ways in which a shipper might not get a fair deal. For instance, some of the packers, transportation companies, and so on, might have a stronger pull in the running of the stock yard, and there might easily be an allocation of space and facilities that would be much more in favour of the wholesale man or packer than of the individual shipper. There is also variation in the fees charged.

Mr. NESBITT: Are you going to regulate the fees?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes, we have power to regulate all those things.

Mr. NESBITT: Supposing I shipped a carload of cattle, and was not satisfied that the commission merchant or broker to whom I shipped had dealt fairly with me, what recourse would I have?

Mr. BURRELL: We propose not to allow a man to operate as a commission merchant on the exchange until he can satisfy, through the exchange, with whom we will deal—

Mr. NESBITT: The exchange will be a body corporate?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes. He will not be allowed to operate unless he can give absolute security as regards his integrity and financial standing. It will work out something in the same way as the bonding of the grain men on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. There is some criticism as regards the prices of feed, and as regards weights. We propose to have supervision of the scales, and details of that kind, in order to insure that the operations will be

uniform and satisfactory, and the producer of live stock operating in this way will know he has all the encouragement and protection that can be afforded him, because he is going to get a fair deal.

Mr. NESBITT: Do you propose to have an inspector in the yards to see about the weights?

Mr. BURRELL: We would probably work very largely through the live stock exchange. The exchange would have to operate under our approval, through its constitution and by-laws, so that if there was any dispute or grievance at any time we could take it up through the exchange. We would reserve power to close the stock-yards if we wished, and license commission men to carry on their business irrespective of the exchange. Not that we are anticipating anything of the kind, but the whole tenor of the Bill is simply to provide, in the interests of the producers of live stock, what I think should possibly have been provided before, some Government regulation and supervision of the stock yards which are a sort of semi-public utility.

Mr. THORNTON: Is it the intention that only live stock commission merchants shall be members of the exchange?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes.

Mr. THORNTON: A drover could not be a member?

Mr. BURRELL: It is intended to apply only to commission men.

Mr. THORNTON: And every sale should be through a commission man?

Mr. BURRELL: I should not like to speak positively of that now, but practically all the business is done in that way in the stock-yards. A man sends his stock there and it is sold on commission. This is only to systematize the business, and to give additional securities to the shipper, it was felt that the bonding feature was necessary. The matter has been discussed very vigorously in the West. Two years ago the Saskatchewan Government appointed a commission to investigate the live-stock industry, and one of the most vigorous recommendations was that some control of the stock-yards should be established. The Western Live-stock Union, the great organization of stock producers west of the lakes, has also for the last two years been passing resolutions along the same line. That the stock-yards have helped live-stock production is evident because in