

*Grain Board—Mr. Mackenzie King*

tea or sugar, wheat or other grains, in the markets of the old country, where the price charged per unit is very small, will understand what the result is if an effort is made to establish, shall I say, a new agency in competition with those old established institutions. My primary reason in rising tonight was to have it known I trust by the inaccurate correspondent of the newspaper—and let him be accurate for once—that as long as this government exists, there is no intention that this country should offer its surplus of grain at fire sale prices or throw its surplus on the markets of the world. I am bound to say in fairness to the committee that this legislation, which is not based on any such idea, was unanimously agreed to by that committee, so that the views which I express are those of the committee unanimously, there being no difference with respect to that whatever. The language used, I may say in fairness to those who are being criticized, is language which, according to my memory, I myself employed with respect to paragraph (c) of section 8 in connection with the sale of the accumulations of the Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited during the past few years. I regret that this result should have followed because of any misstatements that have been made with respect to the principles that will govern the future operations of the board. But over and above and beyond all else stands the fact that whatever may be said, the board must be amenable to the orders in council and direction and control of the government of the day.

I have nothing further to say except this—I have been saying that very frequently—the committee in arriving at its conclusions believed on the evidence submitted by the various witnesses that this bill gives effect to every school of thought and affords a fair opportunity to test by experience the value of the claims made by each, and at the same time protects the producer to an extent that I think has never been done before, by ensuring him a fixed price and his share in the ultimate surplus that may arise from its operation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, my right hon. friend must either have been misinformed or have deceived himself when he told the house and country a day or two ago he regretted that he was no longer able to participate in what he called the rough and tumble of debate. If he has not shown this evening that he is in form for the rough and tumble of debate I do not know that we have ever had reason to believe that he was. How-

[Mr Bennett.]

ever, I rise not for the purpose of joining in any bout of the kind but rather to draw the attention of the committee to the difference between what was said by my right hon. friend at the beginning of his remarks and what was said at the close. I am glad there is that difference, because certainly the opening part of my right hon. friend's remarks left a very unpleasant impression on my mind and I think on the mind of the committee generally. My right hon. friend began his address by saying that the bill which the house has been considering this afternoon, upon which we have all worked so amicably and which we have run through without very much discussion, "is mine," and gave no credit whatever to the committee.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my right hon. friend will read his address he will see that is so.

Mr. BENNETT: I wrote it on Dominion day.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: He now confirms the remark.

Mr. BENNETT: And I said I took the suggestions of every member of the committee before doing so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my right hon. friend, if this is his bill, whose was the bill introduced in the name of the Prime Minister on June 10? I do not wish to deprive my right hon. friend of any credit, which may be his, but I think it is only right that credit in all quarters should be given where credit is due.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: From the month of March there was on the order paper of the house a resolution in the name of the Prime Minister for the introduction of a bill providing for the constitution and powers of the Canadian grain board. On June 10 that bill was introduced and given its first reading by the Prime Minister. My right hon. friend will recall and the committee will recall that I asked him at the time if he would not agree to his bill going to a committee, either a special committee or a select committee, and I gave as a reason for my request that I thought the bill would have to be changed considerably, and that if we could get it before a committee much discussion would be saved when the bill came back to the house. My right hon. friend was not in a position to give an immediate answer; he said he would consider it. He did consider it and he agreed