

government under this law, it can be given the same powers in interprovincial and export trade that it has within the province of British Columbia.

**Hon. Mr. Beaubien:** But only for the products of that province?

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Yes, that is assumed.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Such a regulation does not affect another province.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** But I believe that in considering such provisions the public interest is of paramount concern. I do not like to see laws passed which confer even upon a marketing board within a province certain arbitrary powers, for instance, to exploit consumers in that province or elsewhere.

I recognize that this problem is a difficult one. Personally I am a hundred per cent in favour of the development of the co-operative scheme in marketing by producers. The western provinces have promoted that idea quite extensively. While I favour the co-operative plan, I dislike the introduction of compulsion into these measures. For instance, living in Manitoba, I would not like to be buying British Columbia fruit and feeling that the fruit board of that province had power under this legislation to exploit me as a consumer. I trust I am making myself clear.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** My friend has just said something which I do not think is quite correct. The only means by which he can be exploited is by the withholding of British Columbia fruit from the market.

**Hon. Mr. Sinclair:** That board is not a price-fixing body?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** No, but it can hold fruit off the market.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** The board might say that British Columbia fruit could be sold only through a certain agency in the province of Manitoba, or it might establish its own wholesale agency in Winnipeg. I have no objection to such a policy, but I believe the principle of monopoly must be avoided if at all possible.

I said a few moments ago that I was in favour of the co-operative idea, but that I did not think it wise to impose any compulsory features. I am a native-born rebel when it comes to someone telling me what I must do under certain circumstances in relation to what are my natural rights.

It is quite evident that considerable caution was taken in the drafting of this bill. For instance, subsection 2 of section 2 gives the Governor in Council the power to revoke certain privileges that have been granted. The government may say to a provincial board that they may have certain powers

extra-provincially, but that if they are abused the privileges may be revoked.

I do not wish to give the impression that I am opposing the bill, but it is a type of legislation which must be administered most carefully. As I said previously, the public interest is of paramount concern. That principle applies equally to all people, whether they be wheat growers, live stock raisers, honey producers, or fruit growers.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Or manufacturers.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Yes, or manufacturers. In most instances competition is the regulating factor. While I hope this legislation will work to advantage, should it develop monopolistic tendencies I trust that public opinion will see that the situation is corrected.

**Hon. R. B. Horner:** Honourable senators, while listening to the honourable senator from Churchill I was reminded of a meeting with the Price Spreads Committee for the purpose of assisting in the organization of co-operatives in agriculture. We have plenty of evidence that, because agricultural production covers so wide an area, the primary producer needs the help of associations of this kind, whether known as co-operatives or otherwise, to enable him to purchase what he needs at a fair price. These co-operatives are well organized; and their penalties, arranged by themselves, vary with the size of their organizations and the amount of their business. A large sum in cash is set aside so that if their prices are lower than those of fellow-producers elsewhere, the penalty is already provided for. This is sufficient proof that agriculturists have obtained the privileges which are theirs, not in order to exploit other Canadians, but to assure fair and reasonable prices for their products, whether apples or meat. These products are disposed of in an orderly way so that the market will not be supplied beyond its requirements.

For these reasons, while the compulsory feature does not appeal to me, I believe experience shows that legislation on these lines for the agricultural producer is necessary to enable him to compete with other businesses, and to have the wherewithal to purchase the implements he requires for production.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

#### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Now, with leave.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 o'clock.