

nipeg, one at Toronto and two at Montreal—afford the very best market for the producer of live-stock, and provide a stimulus for producing more live-stock, a great many criticisms have been directed to the conditions which exist in some of the stock-yards, and there is a very strong feeling amongst live-stock men throughout the country that there should be some Government regulation and control of the stock-yards.

For instance, as the principal buyers in the stockyards are packers, exporters and butchers, it is quite obvious that the man who ships a carload of live stock to the stockyards is, in a sense, taking a leap in the dark, and has to depend on the integrity, the honesty and efficiency with which the stockyards are managed, as well as on the integrity of the commission man with whom business is done. In the United States, where there are some enormous stockyards, as my hon. friend knows, there have been tendencies towards monopolies on the part of great packing-houses and other corporations, and the farmer, the producer of live stock, has always felt that he is very much the under dog. I do not say the same conditions exist to the same extent in Canada, but I know there have been strong protests to the Government of the United States about conditions there, and we did not feel it was a happy condition to exist here. Therefore, it was thought better to take it in time, and have some kind of Government supervision of the stockyards management, in order, not to impose any improper restrictions on the stockyards, but to give the farmers and drovers of live stock in the country the security they should have in what is their particular market, an absolute knowledge that they would get a fair and square deal all round. I do not think it is necessary to explain the various provisions that will be embodied in the Bill, because they will be discussed at length when the Bill is introduced. We have wished to take some steps which will lead to a better system of standardizing our live-stock products, not only to strengthen our export market, but in order to keep the export market which we have happily gained during the progress of this war.

As all men who have studied the question know, the war has seen the replacement in the British market of a great many commodities of Danish, Russian and other origin, by an increase of exports from the United States, and a very great increase in the agricultural exports of Canada, to such

[Mr. Burrell.]

an extent that it is felt if the conditions can be maintained and our flow of exports continued, it will provide the very strongest stimulus for the development of our country. This export trade is of vital importance, because if a steady increase in production occurs here it can only be warranted by a steady export trade, and in this way it re-acts on the whole market. That is, briefly, the purpose of the Bill which is to be founded upon the resolution.

Mr. NESBITT: I am one of these who would be very glad to assist the farmer by every means to get an honest deal. What I wanted the minister to explain was just how this Bill will help the farmer. I quite appreciate if a person ships stock in, say, the Toronto live-stock market, he must take his chances as to what he gets for it. He generally ships to a commission man there, and the commission man sells to the packer. As a rule the farmer does not do the shipping himself, unless he is accustomed to go to the market, and knows the ways of the market. The resolution says:

That it is expedient to provide that there shall be a live stock exchange in connection with each stock-yard operated under these provisions.

As a matter of fact, is there not now a live-stock exchange?

Mr. BURRELL: Not at all stock-yards.

Mr. NESBITT: Does not the buyer who buys from the farmer ship the live-stock to the order of a commission man, or a broker?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes.

Mr. NESBITT: And, does not the latter sell them publicly to the packers? I do not wish to be understood as criticising my hon. friend. I am only asking for information.

Mr. BURRELL: I thought all those details would come up again and be more fully considered when the Bill was under discussion. My hon. friend's statement is correct, except that I do not think there are live-stock exchanges in connection with all the stock-yards. What we propose is that every stock-yard shall have an exchange, and that no commission man shall operate in these stock-yards unless he is a member of the livestock exchange, and no live-stock exchange shall operate unless its by-laws have been approved by the minister. In that way, the department will have a reasonable knowledge of