

and because of what was felt to be over-production some two or three years ago, an agreement was entered into that there would be a decrease in the quantity of tobacco produced. One of the new growers met me in my office some time ago and asked that this should be looked into. I gave instructions to have it looked into, but have not yet received the report. It may have come in, but I have not it here.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): I am very much obliged to the minister for the information and for stating what I have in mind. Probably I could state more specifically what I have in mind. I understand from the minister that the chairman of the board is also the owner or part owner of one of the syndicates that grow tobacco that the people who grew tobacco previously now have licences and that the growing of tobacco has become a privilege, a monopoly if you like, and that one of the syndicate holders has been made chairman of the marketing board. Is that correct or incorrect? That is my understanding of the minister's statement.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Mr. Leitch is the chairman of the dominion marketing board. I have not the other information at hand with sufficient accuracy to answer, but I shall be glad to look into the matter and get the information.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Does the minister state that there are individuals who are desirous of growing tobacco who are prohibited from doing so?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Not under this scheme.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): From selling the tobacco they grow.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): It is the same thing. If they cannot sell it, what is the use of growing it? Have we come to the stage in agriculture in Ontario where a man is prohibited from engaging in producing anything out of which he thinks he can make some money?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Is he prohibited from selling it, then?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The selling of tobacco or the marketing of it is subject to regulation, but the growing is not.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Does the minister mean to tell the committee that the marketing act is being used for the purpose of prohibiting a man from selling his production?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That is not what I said.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): It has the same effect.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Not at all.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): He may sell it in some other way rather than through the agency of the board.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): He can sell it under the board, but I did not state that there was any provision to prevent his selling tobacco. The marketing of tobacco was regulated; it had to be sold in the regular way.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): A man can sell his tobacco only when the board gives him the right to do so.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): All the tobacco could not be dumped on the market at one time.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is another way of putting the matter, but the producer of tobacco is prohibited from selling it until he gets the authority of the board to do so.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That is the essence of the scheme; it is the essence of all such schemes.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Has the minister any knowledge of the increase in prices of the lands held by the licensed growers including the lands held by the syndicate of which the chairman of the marketing board is a member?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No, I have not that information.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Will the minister make inquiries and give us that information?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Can any farmer now grow tobacco under the board without a licence?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Any farmer can grow tobacco if he wishes to do so.

Mr. VENIOT: Can he sell it?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes.

Mr. CAMPBELL: What does the marketing board do?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The producers get together and agree that they will regulate the marketing of their product under certain conditions upon which they agree.