

wants to buy his feed as cheaply as he can. You have the wheat board in the middle, and what are they to do about the matter? It means price-fixing from a spot from which it is hard to fix prices and so I say, not of this government particularly, but of any government, that you will have political price fixing and nothing else, because we know that the buyers outnumber the growers at least four or five to one. The C.C.F. party, who want to sacrifice their people out west to the eastern purchasers, have got something to explain to the growers of coarse grains in the west.

So we find ourselves in this position. This measure is not seriously asked for by anyone. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture is divided on it; we know that. Yet we find coarse grains in the measure and, finding it there, I must assume that the government is serious about it. I do not think the matter can be left with the Minister of Trade and Commerce telling us practically that it cannot be implemented anyway. I may be exaggerating what he said, but if I have exaggerated he will accept this as my opinion from the legal point of view that you will never get it. But the government have the provision there, and therefore we must assume that they mean what they say.

May I pause to answer the interruption made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce as to who will be to blame for delaying the payment of money to farmers. I say the blame can rest right in his lap. This house, as the hon. member for Swift Current said, in speaking so heartily in favour of the amendment which he voted against this afternoon—

Mr. BENTLEY: I did not do such thing. On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I voted in favour of your ruling. My vote had nothing to do with the merits of the motion before the house, and the hon. member knows it.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): There are a lot of people I should like to quarrel with, but the hon. member is not one of them. He is one of the nicest chaps I know and one of the ablest because he has made a beautiful distinction without a difference which he did not mention in the speech in which he spoke to the resolution.

I come back to the resolution and make this simple statement by way of prophecy. The wheat board is a popular institution among the farmers of Canada, and justly so.

An hon. MEMBER: Why?

[Mr. Smith (Calgary West).]

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Do you want me to take you to school or what? I have only so much time. The wheat board is a popular institution. This legislation, if it is passed, can create nothing but friction between the eastern and the western farmers. That is inevitable. It cannot do anything else, and we all know that when a board or an institution, supported by the government, becomes unpopular, our psychology is such that it loses its effectiveness. And this is the best means that I know of, of effecting that end. It is unfortunate; but it is true nevertheless, that two of the most moving factors in human conduct are greed and fear. In the west we want all we can get; in the east they want to buy as cheaply as they can. The world has not yet advanced to the point where we are all altruists, each man his brother's keeper, thinking of his brother more than of himself. Let us be realistic, because that is the situation in which we find ourselves.

I close with this, and perhaps some will be happy that I have said that. Here we have a measure for which there is no general demand. Here we have a measure which will completely socialize everything that the farmer has to sell, with the exception of rye and flax. Remember that in all the things that he does these charges are now fixed—carrying charges, storage, everything. Everything is now fixed by the government, to put this where they want to put it, or where they suggest they want to put it, under the complete socialization of all farm products in western Canada.

Of course my hon. friends will vote for it. What do they care about the loss a man may suffer who is their neighbour out there, so long as they are able, by measures like this, to attain their objective, which is the control of the production and distribution of all these products? Why would anyone favour that? Why do farm organizations in certain parts of the west favour it? For this reason. There has been a propaganda conducted by radio and newspaper with one thing in mind, and that is to kill the Winnipeg grain exchange. I have told the house my view on that. I have no intention of repeating it tonight, but it does seem to me that the spread of that kind of thinking has gone so far that these pools and so on, with that object in mind, are content to have the farmers make sacrifices in order that that result may come about.

That is not new. We have propaganda agencies now which form public opinion rapidly and then go on to solidify it and make it cohesive. But that is not new in this world. Mob psychology—and I use that term most