

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But would it not be a fair assumption on the part of the Governor in Council that the Act is not to be proclaimed except and until the pool have agreed to the terms mentioned in that clause, and have purchased those elevators?

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: The amendment proposed is as follows:

This section shall come into force on such date as may be fixed by the Governor in Council by proclamation published in the Canada Gazette, and shall remain in force for a period not exceeding one year from the date that it is assented to.

Should not that be proclaimed?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: Does not the honourable gentleman require to alter that?

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: "This section shall come into force"—is very unusual. It should be "This Act shall come into force."

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Before the amendment is put, I want to ask a question in reference to the amendment. Does it not state whether there is one elevator or more?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: We are not considering that now. That is another section.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, as I understand it, the effect of the amendment now submitted by the honourable member for Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird), together with notice that he has given of a further amendment, is that the first section of the Bill before us shall be approved subject to it becoming effective as and when the Governor in Council may issue a proclamation bringing it into force.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: For one year.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: And to continue in force for one year. There are reasons, in my humble opinion, why that would be wise. The honourable member for Bedford (Hon. Mr. Pope) yesterday made a very happy and clear presentation of the facts that probably led up to the coming into existence of the wheat pool. That is to say, the Western farmers felt that they had grievances. Doubtless some of them were real, and many imaginary. Nevertheless, in their estimation they were real, and they finally resulted in the wheat pool arrangement for the marketing of grain.

That is only a repetition of what has occurred in other lines of activity in our national life—in the industrial field and elsewhere. Those who feel aggrieved set about by collective action to remedy their grievance. In other activities where men have finally succeeded in adjusting their grievances we have seen that they are prone, thinking they

have the whip-hand and that they may treat the other fellow as he treated them, to take advantage; and I very much fear that if this legislation were passed without any restriction just such a situation might result. Although not a member of the Committee, I listened to the discussion and the evidence submitted to the Committee, and was much impressed with what was said by one gentleman who was representing the pool in the capacity, I think, of secretary of the joint pool for the three Provinces. It was referred to by the honourable the junior member for Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby), though not quite in the identical words used by the gentleman when he gave his evidence. A gentleman representing the elevator interests said that the elevator people were prepared on a fair basis of agreement or arbitration to place the pool in possession of a country elevator at every point where they did not already have one, so that the pool would have their own facilities for sending grain to their own terminals, and that it was a fair proposition. A gentleman representing the pool agreed, and said yes, that so far as his personal view went, it was; but he further said: "I have no authority to accept it; I am acting only in a representative capacity. If I had authority, I would say that as a business proposition it was a fair one." I think he went to the extent of saying that he would be inclined to accept. He was then asked why the people he represented would not accept it; and what did he say? To my mind it was the most significant statement of all the evidence given; he said because the farmers felt that those elevators had in years past paid for themselves several times over, and they were not going to pay for them again. Now, I do not believe that expression represents the views of all of the 125,000 farmers who are members of the pool, but it evidently represents the ambition of certain gentlemen who are promoting this legislation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I did not miss one minute of the Committee meetings, but I confess that the statement from the lips of my honourable friend surprises me.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Well, I understood that the pool were not ready to pay the price that was asked, and that they would rather in some instances build their own elevators; but when the grain trade saw that they were in earnest about building elevators they reduced their prices to a considerable extent, and then they bought.