

Prince Edward Island engaged in the potato business will themselves decide whether they are to have their own marketing board or go in with a marketing board that operates for the other two provinces.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I was clear enough in my own mind on that point, and I thought I stated my understanding plainly. In the first place, the people of Prince Edward Island will not have to come under a board at all unless the majority of the potato growers want to do so.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: In that province?

Hon. Mr. BLACK: There will be a board only if the majority of the people want it. It will be a majority of the potato growers in Prince Edward Island, or New Brunswick, or any other province, who suggest that a board be formed. The suggestion will not come from the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Does this section contemplate the possibility of amalgamating a potato marketing board in Prince Edward Island with an apple board in Nova Scotia?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I cannot say that the section forbids it, but there is no need that they should be amalgamated, because the products are not at all in the same line, and there is no likelihood that the producers would want an amalgamation.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Do the words "natural product," in the fourth line, govern?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, I should think so. Consequently there could be an amalgamation only of boards dealing with a natural product.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Dealing with any one natural product?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Dealing with any one natural product, I should think. But I do not want to be dogmatic on that, because it is conceivable that one board might deal with several natural products. For instance, in the Okanagan Valley there would not be one board dealing with apples, another with pears and another with peaches. Fruit is a combination of several natural products, and I presume that if there were an apple board it would deal with peaches and pears as well.

Hon. Mr. COPP: The same board could deal with pigs, could it not?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I presume it could, but I think that would not happen. The honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) is right in suggesting that the

section contemplates that a board handling one natural product may be amalgamated with a board handling another natural product, but I should think that the natural product in each instance might be some kind of fruit. In any event, the producers make the selection.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: How would the poll of the people engaged in an industry be taken?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The method of taking the poll would be provided by the regulations that are to be promulgated. I presume that everybody producing a certain quantity of goods in any district will be required to register, so that when the registrations have been made the board will know just who are engaged in the various industries. Provision will probably be made for ascertaining the wishes of all those persons who are registered from any district, when it is suggested that a board be formed for that district.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: It seems to me that so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned it would be much simpler to get an expression of opinion from the Provincial Government, for it represents everybody there. Four-fifths of the people in that province are growing potatoes, in large or small quantities.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: May I ask the right honourable gentleman this question? If a local board were organized for the marketing of potatoes in New Brunswick, and a similar board were set up in Prince Edward Island, would each board be supreme in its field, or would the actions of each be controlled by the central board with a view to harmonizing them?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The answer to each part of the honourable gentleman's question is in the affirmative. Each board would be supreme, yet each would be under the governance of the overriding provisions. But those overriding provisions would never prevent either board from getting superior prices for superior quality.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: Nor from maintaining the identity of the products?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Nor from maintaining the identity. The function of the central board will be to harmonize the work of one board with that of another, but the work of the individual boards will not be destroyed. Furthermore, the benefit of the general experience will be available to each section.