

the special clause to which the honourable member from Marquette refers, and I shall not discuss the allegation he makes. I am quite confident there will be a very illuminating discussion before the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry if the allegation is repeated there.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: I do not quite agree with the honourable member from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins). In fact it seems to me that at the present time the packers control the market. Personally, I would rather have my cattle taken direct to the packers' yard, as then they will weigh a little more, and the packers will pay as much there as they will at the stockyards. There is no competition. The packers meet and decide what they will pay. One packer will take the stock one day, another packer next day, and so on. As the price will be the same at the main yards as at the packers' yards, the stock might as well be delivered direct.

There should be a very strict penalty against a man acting both as a commission man and as a dealer buying and selling his own stock. Western farmers have lost heavily on all their horses shipped east. The horse dealers in Montreal charge a commission of \$5 a head, and 70 cents a day for feed. They sell the farmers' horses at a low price and their own at a high price. A chiselling market of that kind does not pay the farmer. Under those conditions I would not trust my own father with a horse, for, as many honourable members are aware, every man thinks his judgment of a horse is superior to the other fellow's.

I should like to see inserted in this Bill a provision against what I consider to be a very improper practice. If I am loading a car of cattle the railway company immediately notifies the dealers and packers in Winnipeg. They are kept informed, free of charge, as to how many cars of stock are in transit for the Winnipeg stockyards. If my stock is arriving at a certain date, that is my business as its owner, and I think it should be kept just as secret as is a telegram. When I arrive at Winnipeg with my car of live stock I may be told, "We cannot do business with you now, as there are so many hundred cars arriving to-morrow."

When this Bill is before the committee, no doubt several amendments will be offered, and I shall reserve any further remarks for that stage.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: I have just one observation to make in reply to my honourable friend from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins). This Bill cures exactly what my honourable friend complains about. For the first time in the history of this country

packers' yards will come under the direction of this advisory committee. Up to the present time the packers' yards have been private institutions, and truck loads of cattle have come in to the packers and have been sold them for a price which has been agreed upon. But there has been no supervision of those yards. They were not mentioned in the old Act, and now for the first time we are going to have the right to go into them and find out what is going on; and if direct selling is thought not to be in the interest of the live stock trade it can be condemned, as has been done at some yards in the United States.

I know some people regard the packers as fair prey. They are like the Irishman's pig, which is kicked every time he meets it, on the principle that if it is not coming from mischief it is going to it. With the exception of Pat Burns in Calgary, I have never sold cattle to packers. I have allowed Dunn & Levack to sell for me. There has been some question as to the fairness or justice of direct selling. At the moment I am not in a position to speak as to that, though I hold some opinions.

My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Mullins) has said that everybody should be allowed to buy, and has complained about the \$10,000 security that is required of commission salesmen. My honourable friend will remember the Richelieu Company that went out among the farmers in the county of Middlesex, bought cattle and took them away, and failed to pay for them. He will remember also that in 1935 the Government thought it owed something to those farmers and voted a sum—and my honourable friend assisted in that—to reimburse them for the money they had been cheated out of by those irresponsible characters who had bought their cattle. Any man who is handling live stock on an exchange or in a yard ought to be a responsible man, and ought to be able to put up a bond for the protection of farmers who send cattle to him, and to give such farmers some assurance that they will get their money.

I have no doubt that in the Agricultural Committee changes will be suggested with respect to this Bill. I think the only object of everybody on either side of the House is to do the best possible for the live stock producers of Canada.

Hon. HENRY A. MULLINS: What the honourable gentleman has reference to is a stockyard operated by a bunch of crooks, if I may call them that, who went out from Montreal to the West and offered the people there special inducements to send their cattle down to that yard. I remember the transac-