

ernment will act as a lever for bringing into action the three pools, and forcing them to do the fair thing by the grain trade, by buying those elevators.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: The honourable gentleman seems to forget that there has been a recent change of Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Why should my honourable friend be so much affected or haunted by that idea, because the Government of yesterday is not the Government of to-day? How long is the Government of to-day to be there? I am thinking of the Government of Canada, not of the Government of this day. Who knows who will be at the helm in a month, or two months, or six months? But I ask my honourable friend from Manitoba: if I dared a month ago to come before this Chamber and ask for that power for my Government, would he have stood up and voted for it?

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Under the same circumstances I would. I would not oppose the Bill at all. I did not rise to oppose this Bill, but merely to ask an explanation as to the amendment. The way it appears to me is this. A change of conditions has arisen in the West; a pool has been recently formed. There are those who say that this pool is bound to be an unqualified success. On the other hand, I have talked to gentlemen of a great deal of experience in these matters, and men of the grain trade, who tell me that this pool is on the crest of the wave, and that it will disappear very shortly. Then in regard to this Bill, in a year from now this House and the country at large will be in a better position to say whether the pool is going to be such an unqualified success as has been prophesied. If it is not a success we will go back to the old state of affairs, and this legislation will be unnecessary. If the pool is a success, the organization will be bigger and stronger, and the legislation that is proposed at a later time may not be at all suitable. That is one reason why I thought that if a year were allowed to elapse before any positive legislation were brought in it would be better.

After all, the pool is only in embryo: it is only an experiment. There are a great many farmers in Manitoba, to my knowledge, who refused to join it, for certain reasons, and this condition of affairs is uncertain. The pool is a great force, but a new force, that has arisen. How long it is going to operate, or whether it is going to be a success or not, we cannot tell. Under those conditions I can assure my honourable friend, without qual-

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ification, that if his Government had been in the same position, and proposed the same thing, he could have looked to me as one of his supporters.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Well, there is one thing that surprises me very much. Here is the grain trade that says: "We have \$85,000,000 of capital invested in this venture, and you are about to wreck our organization, and wipe out our capital; and yet to-day we feel that if the pool operators will buy a certain number of our country elevators at a cost of \$7,000,000 or \$10,000,000 we will be satisfied." I cannot understand that position.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: But the honourable gentlemen heard those gentlemen make that proposition in the Committee?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes I heard it.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: It is not for us to answer it; it is for them to answer.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Undoubtedly, but I have a right to weigh that offer. They offer to sell elevators to the pool wherever the pool has no elevator. But what has that to do with the principle contained in this Bill? The pool people said: "But we can buy elevators; we can build elevators; we can go to you or to any elevator company and make a bargain; we can make a dicker; we can arrange to buy; we do not need the legislation that is contained in the amendment."

Now, this is what I cannot understand—that the grain trade are so anxious to sell to outsiders a certain number of their country elevators, because they would thus strengthen their rivals; by so much. They would be putting in the hands of their rivals a number of feeders, and thus hasten the day when that competition would go increasingly against them. That is the problem which is facing me, and I cannot understand why the grain trade made that offer to the Committee, and now repeats it to this Chamber through a member of the Senate.

We have the honourable the junior member for Moose Jaw informing this Chamber that in two or three years the pool people would not need this legislation, because they would dominate the situation.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I have been repeatedly referred to as the honourable member for Moose Jaw. We have two members from Moose Jaw in the House at present, my old friend on the other side of the House, Senator T. H. Ross, who has been a Senator for a good many years, and Senator Willoughby on