

*Grain Board—Mr. Bennett*

this is necessary, then I have no doubt, whatever government is in power, it will be done. But there is something more than that. Let us examine what is meant by this. I have been rather surprised at some of the observations I have heard. A farmer has a thousand bushels of wheat, and for the sake of argument we will say that the price on the farm is 60 cents. He hauls it to the elevator and this is his choice: he can sell it to anyone he pleases for any price he likes; he can sell it to the board for 60 cents, and he then has, what he would not otherwise have, the right to share in any added price that wheat may bring during that crop year—not that wheat only but all the wheat, bushel for bushel. Under these circumstances is it suggested that there has been any slackening or lessening of the position which we have taken in this matter from the first? None whatever. And if it is found that it is essential, to maintain the principle I have just mentioned, that these sections should be brought into operation, I am sure that no government of the day will fail to take the requisite action; and once it is done it cannot be undone by order in council: it remains as part of the statute law of the country.

There is another point. Some reference has been made to the fact that this statute provides that the board shall buy only wheat from the producers. I insist that that should be so—why? Because they are not going to take the hedges that they have been doing for other people. That is the reason. There is the answer to the whole question raised by the hon. gentleman from Acadia (Mr. Gardiner). The government is not going to be made a convenience of by any trade or any individuals at this time. Instead of Canadian Producers Limited buying wheat, that wheat will be bought by the board on this basis, that whatever the fixed price is, if anyone else takes the wheat he must pay for it an additional price beyond that; and to compensate for the possibility of there being an increase in price it is provided that the producer shall have the right to share in that added price, so that he gets it either way. He either takes the chance of selling it to a competitor of the board or he sells it to the board, with this benefit attached to it with a certificate.

We did not stop there. We heard the grievances of the producer as expressed by Mr. Bredt, Mr. Brouillette and Mr. Bennett. And what did we say? We have provided in this bill, for the first time in the history of this country, this section—that the board shall have the powers of a commission appointed

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under the Inquiries Act and the right to inquire with respect to the movement of wheat for export, either interprovincially or internationally, through the clearing house and the exchanges in Winnipeg and Vancouver. I do not prejudge, but if any of the facts they allege exist, then they will become known; and if they are as stated, does anyone in this committee think for a moment that any government would hesitate to bring into operation the provisions of sections 9, 10, and 11? There is the position; that is what has been accomplished.

Now let us proceed a step further. In the bill as originally framed it was provided that all grain should be covered. I did that purposely because I was anxious to know what the views of the committee and the producers of the country might be. It is not thought desirable at this time that all grains should be brought within the act but that it should be limited to wheat. That was the opinion expressed and in that sense it has been done. Now the question is, how shall the accumulations be disposed of? That is the next question. This year's crop is to be dealt with in the way I have indicated. The accumulations, which came about in the way I have indicated, are to be dealt with as provided in the act in a special section, namely by their disposition as speedily as may be reasonably possible having regard to economic and other conditions. In other words, the accumulations are not to come into competition with the crop produced this year. As speedily as may be reasonably possible having regard to economic and other conditions—there are the conditions that you have with respect to the sale of the accumulations, and above and beyond all that—and the suggestion in a slightly different form came from the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth—there is paragraph (h):

To give effect to any order in council that may be passed with respect to its operations.

That is, the governor in council has the power of directing, prohibiting, controlling, regulating, determining the course of action this board shall take with respect to any matter that comes within its jurisdiction. In other words, the responsible government of the country, in its judgment and the exercise of its discretion, has power to control completely the operations of the board.

Then the board is being assisted by an advisory committee. It was suggested by one of the witnesses who had been and still is associated with the pool, that there should be some compensation paid to the producers at