

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I suppose the grain trade would have to take the rough with the smooth if there were only one elevator there. The chances are that the trade would be glad to sell if the pool were going to build alongside.

The effect of the Bill with these amendments added is simply this. Clause 1 stands as it is with the addition of a statement that it is to come into effect by proclamation published in the Canada Gazette, and it will remain in force for one year from the date it is assented to.

I propose to move another amendment to carry out the arbitration idea. It will impose upon the grain trade the necessity, if they are required so to do, to sell one or more elevators at each place upon terms to be arbitrated upon and for other considerations upon which the Board of Grain Commissioners shall be the arbitrators. There is no obligation on the part of the pool to accept it; the obligation is on the part of the grain trade to sell in case the pool desire to buy.

Under these proposals the pool will receive the legislation they have asked for, and in addition they will have the opportunity of purchasing elevators at the 1,300 points where they are not represented, and the terms on which they may make the purchase are all subject to arbitration proceedings.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman has not explained why he suspends the coming into operation of the Act to a date to be fixed by the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I will be glad to explain that. Machinery will be provided whereby the elevator owners will be required by law to sell one elevator or more at any country point where the pool are not at present represented and where they desire to buy. The Act, as the pools have requested, is passed, but it does not come into effect for a year. This gives an opportunity to the grain trade and the pool to get together and arrange among themselves as to the points where the pool desire to have their own elevators. I am advised—I have no personal knowledge of it—that this suggestion has been before both interests to this controversy, and has been received by them with favourable consideration.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Could the honourable gentleman tell us who those two interests are represented by? It is most important that we should know. If we are to pass this amendment upon the assumption

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that it is desired by both parties, we should have some official statement from those two parties.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I did not carry on the negotiations; I have not been interested in them at all; but I understood they were between the parties who represented the conflicting interests before the Committee, and who have been in Ottawa ever since and have been conferring in this regard.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Can the honourable gentleman tell us if the suspension of the application of the Act will be conditional upon the parties coming to terms?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: If they do not come to terms, then it is for the Governor in Council to say what shall be done.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Then we transfer our legislative powers to the Governor in Council?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Yes, pending the getting together of the parties interested, and who have been discussing it and have come to practically a mutual agreement. It is my thought that it is far better to remove a controversy such as this, which is bound to be widespread throughout the West, and to have some mutual basis, than to pass legislation which will create bad feeling and which in any event is bound to injure certain interests in the country.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Are we to understand that, if there is no acceptance by the pool, no agreement to purchase elevators at points where they have none, the Act will not be proclaimed?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: The Act will remain in force for one year. There is no provision after that period.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It will only come into force by proclamation.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: By proclamation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Through Order in Council. When will that Order in Council be issued if the pool does not agree to buy the elevators that are mentioned in the second amendment of my honourable friend?

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I presume that if the pool make up their mind that they are not going to do anything, then it will be open to the Government to take action. If they do come to terms and take up the offer of the grain trade for the sale of a certain system of elevators, then the Governor in Council will be guided by that.