

after seventy years of experience in England it ought to be easy enough for us to adopt the principle in this country right away. The principle of the legislation is that of purely voluntary action. There is nothing compulsory about the principle at all: it simply provides that the individual members of the State shall have the right to co-operate for their own interests, to minister to their own wants, and to economize their own finances. I am very much pleased that His Excellency, with so many years of experience, has favoured the committee with an address this morning, and I have no doubt that what he has said to us will help the members of this committee and of the House of Commons to further the passage of this wise and necessary legislation. Doubtless, His Excellency's address will have far-reaching effects on the country.

THE CHAIRMAN—YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN.—I wish once again to thank you for your attendance this morning. This committee has sat exactly one hour. We began the proceedings within a very few minutes after twelve and it is now five minutes past one. I think it will be the concensus of opinion that this has been one of the most, if not the most, interesting sittings that this committee or this parliament has had since the beginning of the session. We have had the first citizen of the land, His Majesty's representative, coming before us to give us the benefit of his advice on a system which he has himself promoted on the other side of the water. It is a pleasure for us to see that the work which has been accomplished in England by the Owens, the Wolffs', the Greys', and in Italy by the Luzzatis, has been taken up in Canada by the humble Hansard reporter of the House of Commons, Mr. Desjardins. Your Excellency, Mr. Desjardins has taken up your work in Canada. He has been an enthusiast and to-day he is probably the proudest man in Canada, because after years and years of perseverance and effort, his work, so humble at the beginning, is now commended by the highest authority in this Canada of ours. Let me thank you, in Mr. Desjardins' name for the kind words you have used in speaking of his work. To show the interest of His Excellency in the work of co-operation, I hold in my hand a book which His Excellency got the other day at La Caisse Populaire de Lévis, which he visited as a subscriber on the occasion described by him. I thank you again, on behalf of Mr. Desjardins who cannot speak, on behalf of this committee, and I can assure Your Excellency that by your address this morning and by the facts which you have submitted to this committee, you have helped considerably to promote the passage of the desired legislation.

The resolution was then put and carried by acclamation.

In reply His Excellency said: I can assure you that if I have been of the slightest use to you in your deliberations upon the Bill which is now before the House of Commons, it will afford me the greatest possible pleasure. I am glad to have had the opportunity of meeting you and I heartily wish you success in your efforts to enact this measure. I hope if it does pass it will be conducive to the prosperity and the well-being of all parts of the Dominion.

The committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

ROOM 62,

FRIDAY, April 5, 1907.

The Special Committee to whom was referred Bill No. 2, An Act respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies, met here at 4 p.m., Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, chairman, presiding.