

or any other primary industry while that work of organization was going on.

There will be ample time for further discussion of this bill, but in summing up let me say that there are only three principles contained in the measure. The first principle is to give the producers, to the extent indicated by their organizing powers, the control, regulation and marketing of their own products. I think all hon. members will agree that this is sound, that no person understands the problem better than it is understood by the primary producers. They are the men who have more at stake than any others. In the second place the very fact that they are organizing and are getting closer to their market and the needs of the consumer will show them, as nothing else will, the necessity of producing a high quality product in a planned way so as to furnish a continuous supply to the market. Much of the necessary work has been done, some of it before this government came into power. The legislation passed during the last three years setting up standards for products offered for sale; the creation of machinery to make certain that products will come to the market only when properly labelled and graded, all have paved the way for this further step that it is felt will benefit still further, the primary producer.

In the next place, as I have said, it is felt that this plan is necessary so that the primary producers may devote themselves wholeheartedly to production and be assured that the range within which marketing operation takes place will be limited in order to prevent any undue profit, at the same time seeing to it that the most efficient method of transferring the products, either in the raw or manufactured state, to the consumer is not interfered with. It is also felt—and I doubt if any hon. member who has been in public life for any length of time has not made this statement, particularly before an election—that agriculture is the basic industry of Canada, that this country cannot succeed if agriculture and the other primary industries do not succeed. You may go into any store or office in our great cities of Montreal and Toronto; you do not have to go back very far to trace the connection between that store, and the man or woman engaged in that business, and the primary producer who has made possible these great cities with their large buildings, universities, shops and homes. The people in these cities are much more dependent on the primary producer than many of them realize in the ordinary run of business. Therefore I am sure no hon. member will object, once having made the statement that the success of this country depends upon agriculture, if this

government sees fit to put the resources of the dominion as may be necessary, behind the marketing of the primary products of the country.

I had hoped that there would be little controversy in connection with this bill. No one realizes and appreciates more than I do the fact that it is far from perfect. There are great obstacles to the working out of any such system, but the fact that there are obstacles is no reason why we should not endeavour to surmount those obstacles. I believe the experience gained in the first year of the operation of this bill will do more to bring it to perfection than perhaps hours of discussion in this house, because, after all, to a large extent it is an experiment. In this experiment, however, we have kept in mind three things. The first is that it must be sound, the second that it must be simple of operation, and the third that it must be practical. I regret to say that the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has dashed some of my hopes so far as the lack of controversy goes. It is reported that last week, from a public platform, he stated that this bill would not make any contribution to agriculture, that it would be of no assistance at all. If that statement was made I regret it very much, because it is so sweeping. I have before me many resolutions of appreciation with regard to the bill, not only from producers from one end of the country to the other—supporting it one hundred per cent—but also from boards of trade and other business organizations that realize as they never did before this depression struck us that their continuous success depends more upon the success of the primary producer than upon anything else. I do trust, however, that this bill will be discussed in the spirit in which it is presented. In its preparation we endeavoured to obtain all the points of view possible so far as the organized producers were concerned, at the same time discussing it frankly and freely with those whose business primarily has been that of marketing.

Mr. NEILL: Just before the minister sits down will he say something about part II of the bill? He has not mentioned it.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I thought I had mentioned part II of the bill a number of times.

Mr. GRAY: Will the bill be referred to the committee on agriculture and colonization?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): My own feeling is that there would be no advantage in submitting it to the agriculture committee; I