

regulations for their grades and size, in pursuance of an Act passed last year, I think, the Agriculture Department has made somewhat elaborate regulations for the grading and marking of eggs, which regulations have passed council within a very short time, and seem to cover the situation to the extent that it is not necessary to enact this clause. I am not going into an explanation of what has been arranged for under those regulations by the Department of Agriculture, but am simply stating the fact, and, on account of that, it is not necessary to pursue any further legislation with regard to the weight or grading of eggs. I therefore move that the amended section shall read:

2. Section three hundred and thirty-nine of the said Act is hereby repealed.

The whole business of regulating the size and grading of eggs under the Inspection and Sales Act has gone through these regulations I have spoken of into the hands of the Department of Agriculture.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: How does Section 339, which we are repealing, read?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Section 339 of the present Act reads:

When eggs are described as sold by the standard dozen, the dozen shall mean one pound and a half.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: That is repealed?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. STACEY: Have these regulations been made from the standpoint of the producer or the dealer or the consumer?

Mr. BUREAU: Or the layer?

Mr. STACEY: Because it is of vital importance to a very large section of some portions of Canada, and it will tend to allay any fears that may exist in their mind if they were assured that the interests of these three parties, or at least two of them, the producers and the consumers, were taken into consideration?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I have no doubt at all that the Department of Agriculture has taken a wide survey of the whole question and has acted in the best interests, I should say, of the producer and the consumer. The Minister of Agriculture is not in the House, but, as a matter of fact, at the present time these regulations are in force. They cover the grading, weight and soundness of eggs, in fact, everything about eggs that one can think of. They deal with

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the marking of the cases in which eggs are packed for export, how they shall be packed, the number of eggs they shall contain, their inspection before exportation, the sanitary condition of warehouses or rooms in which they are stored, and there is a caution to Collectors of Customs throughout Canada that they shall not allow any Canadian eggs to be shipped for export that are not marked in accordance with these regulations. The regulations come into force as soon as they are published in the Canada Gazette, and in so far as they affect shipments from one province to another, they shall come into force on June 1, 1918. That is all extra information that I am giving of what has been done by the Department of Agriculture, but it does not affect this legislation at all. If my hon. friend will apply to the Minister of Agriculture he will get full information.

Mr. SEXSMITH: May I ask when these regulations were made and under what authority?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Under an Act of Parliament passed last year which gave authority to the Minister of Agriculture to make regulations by Order in Council. They were published not more than three or four weeks ago.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: As I understand, these regulations only affect inter-provincial trade?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Export trade, and after June 1 next the regulations also affect shipments from one province to another province.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Then the regulations are in force now so far as inter-provincial shipments are concerned?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: They come into force on the 1st of June next. I am not able to say whether these regulations are in force in any sense, but I just find, in my explanations, that with reference to inter-provincial trade they come into force on June 1, 1918.

Mr. STACEY: Can the minister say whether provision has been made for the selling of eggs by weight, irrespective of their size?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I gather from these regulations, a digest of which I have here, that eggs, as graded, must satisfy certain conditions of size, weight, cleanliness and soundness of shell. Those seem to be the different factors which enter into the grading.