

paper that milk was still one of the few things that it was found difficult to deal with there, owing to the want of a standard laid down by the Government as to quality, and it is now a moot question there as to establishing that standard. I am glad to find that we in Canada are a little ahead in that respect, although I fear that we are a little behind them on the general principle with regard to which our adulteration Acts are passed. They appear to have, in England, an Act making the vendors responsible for the quality of all the articles they sell, and as a consequence there is a general purity found to exist now in the articles sold by retail, in which adulteration used to be so very common. I rather think, that before very many years elapse, Canadian dealers will have to be placed under the same responsibility with regard to the articles that they retail, looking of course themselves to the parties who furnish the goods.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—The Minister will have to be very careful not to make the standard too high, and I am very glad to hear the remark of the leader of the House about two standards. On the Island of Montreal there are two points, three miles from each other, at one of which they got the standard easily; on the other point they are not able to get the standard at all. At one place it is high gravelly soil, and it seems to be able to produce richer milk there than on low clay ground. That is along the Petite Cote road. At Longue Point it is not so, and at one of the richest farms that I know of they tried six or seven times last year, by examining the milk fresh from the cows, to get the standard, and they never reached it. I suppose it is on account of the different qualities of feed, so that if the standard was made too high it might be very severe on parties who own low lands, where their cows cannot get as good feed as they can on high lands.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I would like to say, in answer to my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island, with whose sentiments on this subject I entirely concur, that an effort is being made by this Bill now before the committee in the direction he indicates. The Government are fully sensible of the necessity of enforcing these laws against

adulteration, as well as making them and putting them on the Statute-book; but the hon. gentleman not being a lawyer himself, and perhaps not having had any experience on this particular subject, cannot be aware of the extreme difficulty of procuring a conviction against a dealer for the sale of adulterated articles. It is very difficult to say that a man shall be convicted because he sells an adulterated article, unless it is shown that he has some knowledge of what he is doing, and I may say that most of the prosecutions have failed from the impossibility of proving that the man who sold the article had a knowledge himself of the adulteration of it. In sections 5 and 9 provision is made for giving much greater publicity to the examinations made, including the names of the vendors and the results of those examinations, than has hitherto prevailed. In addition to that section which places the vendor on a different footing altogether with regard to the article which he sells, it is not sufficient for him under the provisions of section 9 to profess ignorance, or place himself in a position for knowledge to be proved against him, but he must take a certain amount of precaution, and must do that in a formal manner, to relieve himself from the punishment which the law inflicts for adulteration.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—By making the vendors responsible for the purity of all the articles they sell they themselves will take care to obtain such a guarantee from the manufacturer as will practically secure the object we all have in view, which is the sale of absolutely pure articles. That, I think, has been the experience of countries that have tried making vendors responsible. I do not mean to attach any criminal intent to the vendors. They sell what they get, and probably the chief gainers by it are the manufacturers of the adulterated articles; but if these gentlemen were reached by law through the vendors I think it would tend to the security of the public.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—That, as my hon. friend will see, is precisely the tendency of section 9.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington), from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.