

names to go upon goods brought out from a factory that does not manufacture a good article. The ability on the part of the small factories to sell to the large and respectable houses rests upon their turning out a good article. The wholesalers will not buy the article and put their label on it unless the packer has a good reputation and unless they are satisfied that a good article is being produced. When that is done, it goes to the wholesaler, he places his label upon the article, and he recommends it for consumption. If that system had been interfered with, and the Bill had gone through without the modifications of last year, it would have practically de.anged, and it might possibly have destroyed the Canadian trade in lobsters. This Bill goes a little further so as to make responsibility attach to the packer. The name of the packer must be disclosed, although the article bears the label of the large dealer, and it is really placing more responsibility upon the small packer than the original Act cast upon him. I know that the amendment of last year to the Bill, after it came to the House, allowing modifications to be made by orders in council, was the means of protecting the trade in lobsters in the east, and this amendment, if there has been any abuse, will serve to correct it, because the inspectors will be able to get at the packer as the clause forces the larger dealer to disclose the name of the man who packed the goods.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Last year, when this Bill was before the House, I warned hon. gentlemen that it would have to come up for revision, and I am sorry to say that the revision is against the public interest. Canned goods and packed goods are sold by packers and by wholesale men, and that is their line of business. The business of the consumer is to find out when those goods are packed and what they are worth. Under this law, the packer and the wholesaler will be relieved of the responsibility of telling the consumer whether the goods were canned or packed in 1908, 1906 or 1905, and I as a consumer do not want this parliament to pass a law on behalf of the packers to that effect. I am giving you the plain facts as the people want them, and as the people state them,

and as the press of the country states them. This amendment to the law of last year was found to be inadequate; but it was a good deal better than the amendment now proposed which transfers the responsibility of the packer to the shoulders of the wholesaler. Who is the wholesaler? What is he? Is he a man who buys canned goods—one case or ten cans? Is the packer to be allowed by parliament, to put up goods that will be of no substantial use to the country, probably of a pisonous nature, and be relieved of the responsibility, because some wholesaler who buys a thousand cases or one case, wishes to sell the goods under his own label?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No. He is liable for the consequence of any infringement of the Act. If he put up an inferior article, he can be prosecuted. His name can be ascertained through the inspector, and his factory can be closed.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I wish the law was as plain as the statement of the hon. Secretary of State.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The law is clear, and provides that all fish, fruit or vegetables, used in any establishments where those articles are prepared for export, shall be sound, wholesome, and fit for food, and that any such articles, in such establishments, unsound or unfit for food shall be confiscated; and the law provides a penalty. The inspector can close the establishment, and the license can be withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I have no objection to that clause, but I would ask that the date of packing shall be put on the can, or on the box, I care not whether it is Armour, McLaren, or anybody else. I know the standard of these men of course, but I want to know the date upon which these goods have been put up. As a consumer—and I speak on behalf of five and a half million people—I want to know whether the canned food that we buy were packed five years ago, or packed yesterday. That is all I ask. I want no elaborate description of the goods on the can. I want a simple statement of when they were packed, so that when I go to a dealer I can purchase what I want. I want a