

Mr. CAHILL: What is the purpose of changing the weight from $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to 94 pounds? I have not heard that explained.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The purpose is to have a standard by which cement can be sold.

Mr. CAHILL: Eighty-seven and a half pounds is the standard now?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There is no legal standard now. A legal standard establishing the weight of 94 pounds fixes also the standard for a barrel as 376 pounds, equal to four bags. If what is delivered to you does not come up to that, then you do not pay that much. In all this legislation under the Inspection and Sale Act, we have standards. If we do not need any standards in the country at all, you might just as well abolish your weights and measures. I cannot see why there should be any objection to establishing a standard in cement, and as the standard in the United States is 94 pounds, it seems fair to us to establish the same standard here. If there could be some method devised by which in the bagging of it you could have a uniform amount in each bag, and then stamp that on each bag, there would be no great difficulty, but I am told that that is impossible, and that therefore you cannot stamp the correct weight on the bag unless you submit it to manual test after you have done the mechanical work.

Mr. CASSELMAN: Bags have been uniform before.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There is no standard with which to compare it.

Mr. KNOX: Has the $87\frac{1}{2}$ pound standard not been adopted because in mixing cement that is considered a cubic foot? I have always understood that quantity to be a cubic foot, and that is why it was put at $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There must have been some good reason why the Bureau of Standards, which is an institution in the United States which fixes all their standards of weights and measures, has adopted this standard. I do not know much about the mixing of cement, but I am informed that, in proportioning concrete, a bag of cement of 94 pounds net can, for all intents and purposes, be looked upon as a cubic foot. The usual mixture for concrete is one cubic foot of cement, two cubic feet of sand and four cubic feet of gravel.

Mr. BUREAU: The minister says: "For all intents and purposes," but my hon.

[Mr. Casselman.]

friend (Mr. Knox) says that $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds is an actual cubic foot of cement.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: But it is not.

Mr. BUREAU: It is for all intents and purposes. It is not an actual cubic foot. It may answer the purpose of an actual cubic foot. My hon. friend (Mr. Knox) says that $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds is an actual cubic foot of cement. The minister says that he wants to standardize this measurement. Who is going to be benefited by this legislation?

Mr. CAHILL: The United States.

Mr. BUREAU: I do not think it will benefit them all. What does the Customs Department do now? Supposing a bag of cement goes across the border, does the Customs Department charge for $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, or 94 pounds, to the bag, or is there any standard by the bag, or is the duty charged according to the actual weight?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The Customs Department, I suppose, imposes a tax upon the cement which is imported according to its weight.

Mr. BUREAU: It will not make any difference whether our bag is $87\frac{1}{2}$ or 94 pounds. If we are going to imitate the United States, we shall just continue a process that has been started. When our cement goes to the United States I suppose, it is weighed. I understand from hon. members who have spoken to-night that \$2,000,000 has been invested in bags that are marked " $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds."

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Not marked.

Mr. BUREAU: Well, which contain $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. They certainly will not hold 94 pounds, or if they are made to hold 94 pounds, they will be packed so tightly that there will be a danger of explosion.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There is a difference of opinion on that.

Mr. BUREAU: That is the fate which I would like this Bill to have to-night. Let it explode and let us be done with it. If this Bill was to serve any purpose of the consumer, or even if it were to aid the manufacturer himself, we could feel that at least it was going to be of service to somebody. The minister is asked: why make the weight 94 pounds? He replies: To make a standard. Why not make the standard $87\frac{1}{2}$ pounds?

Mr. KAY: The United States.

Mr. BUREAU: If you jump at a chasm you do not have to go a mile beyond. Let