

Mr. LOGGIE: As far as I am personally concerned I am satisfied, but the majority of the packers are not satisfied.

Mr. TURGEON: If the hon. gentleman, with all his experience, was satisfied with fourteen ounces, why does he now tell the House that fourteen ounces is impracticable. The moment you put in four ounces of pickle you reduce the efficiency of the pickle to the extent of the water that you add. You may put in as much as you like but you reduce the quality of the fish. We have had water-soaked bacon upon the market. It makes it heavier but it does not improve the quality. The same thing applies to lobster.

Mr. LOGGIE: I presume from the remarks of the hon. gentleman that he is an expert, and it is fair to infer that Robert Simpson and Company, O'Leary and Lee, and the other large packers, do not know what the effect will be when there are only twelve ounces in a can instead of fourteen ounces.

Mr. DUFF: I suggest to the hon. member the effect will be that Robert Simpson and Company and the other packers will make a lot of money.

Mr. LOGGIE: I differ from the hon. gentleman. I think these goods will be sold on their merits according to the standard weight of the can; the public interest will be conserved, and no interest will suffer, in my judgment. As far as I am concerned, however, I am quite willing to abide by the decision of the committee, and I would suggest that the resolution be passed, as the minister has suggested, and that experts representing such firms as Robert Simpson and Company, and O'Leary and Lee, be sent for. Let them give their evidence before the Fisheries Committee, and then let the committee pass judgment, having heard the evidence. I have already given mine as far as I could do so.

Mr. DENIS: I strongly support the advice that has just been given by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon) who has urged the Government to withdraw this resolution. My information is to the effect that when the old Parliament Buildings were burned, the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Loggie) was making a speech on the lobster industry, and I think I should have the unanimous support of the committee in saying that we should now do everything in our power to avoid a repetition of that disaster.

Mr. MICHAUD: I think we ought to follow the advice of the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon) who has also given us the opinion of other lobster packers throughout the Maritime Provinces. My hon. friend expresses the opinion that fourteen ounces ought to be put in a one-pound can, whereas others say the contents of a can should weigh twelve ounces. To settle the matter I would suggest that the committee adopt fourteen ounces as the weight, and leave the matter as it stands now.

Mr. FIELDING: I once got into trouble—I may have mentioned this before—by saying I represented more lobsters than any other man in the House, because it so happens that the constituency from which I come is very largely interested in the lobster industry. Besides, I was present during a portion of the proceedings of the Halifax convention, although, unfortunately, I was not there at the moment when this particular subject was discussed. I understood, however, that there were some differences of opinion, and that finally the convention came to a unanimous decision in line with what the minister is now proposing. Of course, it would be fair to say that it was largely a packers convention, but it was not called as a packers convention, but as a convention of all the fishing interests. But the average fisherman in my constituency can hardly afford to separate himself from his work and travel up to Halifax to spend two or three days at a convention. Consequently such a convention, although not invariably, becomes a convention of the large operators, and it was so there. Still, a man may be a large operator and a fairly respectable individual notwithstanding, and many of the gentlemen who were present at that meeting are known to me as business men of high rank. My hon. friend from Northumberland mentioned one or two of them here, and I am quite sure the motives they had were excellent. Now there is more room for controversy in the matter than I had thought there was. I was of opinion that a settlement had been reached after the action of the Halifax convention, but it seems to me now that the proposal of the Minister that the Bill should pass in its present stage, and then be referred to a Committee where evidence can be heard, is necessary in order to meet the wishes of the House.

Mr. DECHENE: We have heard a great deal about dried fish and dried lobster. I would ask that the Committee be told