

dressed meat by sailing vessels, because it goes forward in much better condition than it does in steamers or on railways. That is one of the great drawbacks under which the trade labours in Prince Edward Island. The butchers of Ontario can put their dressed meat on properly constructed refrigerator cars, which are locked and not opened until they arrive at their destination at Sydney or Halifax. Whereas when the Prince Edward Island shippers send by rail, the goods have to be handled three or four times and practically arrive in a miserable condition. They arrive in much better condition when sent by a sailing vessel. They are only handled once in loading, are taken good care of as a rule, and reach their destination in fairly good condition. If the operation of this Bill would hamper this trade in any way, it would certainly be objectionable.

Mr. JOHNSON. It may be objectionable from the point of view perhaps of the shipper but not of the person who receives the goods. I cannot profess to any particular knowledge on the subject, but if inspection be necessary in the case of goods intended for export, it ought to be necessary in the case of goods intended to be consumed at home or for the interprovincial trade. If the meats are unfit to enter the British market, they are certainly unfit to be sold in our own.

Mr. A. A. MACLEAN. A few days before I left home last December, I read in the newspapers that there was a famine with regard to flesh meat and other produce in Sydney, and therefore it does not come very well from the hon. member for Sydney (Mr. Johnston) to say that we should have an inspection of such meats. Had that been the case then, he would have been considerably delayed in getting fresh meat for his Christmas dinner. If the shipper is bound to have every carcass inspected, a great deal of time would be lost in the shipment, much to the detriment both of the shipper and the purchaser. I agree with the hon. member for King's county (Mr. J. J. Hughes) that this Bill is altogether impracticable so far as the shipments of fresh meats are concerned.

Mr. LOGGIE. I do not see very much difficulty in carrying out this provision, if the inspector be within reasonable reach, so that when the vessel was ready to clear there would be no unnecessary delay. This, I understand, is provided for by the Bill, but the only question is whether that provision is workable. I take issue with my hon. friend from Niagara and Lincoln (Mr. Lancaster), when he says that it is not necessary to have this inspection. I know of a case where a very reputable and reliable packer sent to a town in New Brunswick some cases of tinned corn beef, and when the tins were opened, the contents were found unmerchantable. And as the matter

was not reported very promptly, the packer refused to make good the loss. That is a case so very much in point that I take issue with the hon. member for Niagara (Mr. Lancaster). I am of the opinion that, so far as canned meat is concerned, it should be inspected for the interprovincial as well as the foreign trade; and if an inspector be available, as soon as the vessel is ready to sail, I can see no difficulty in working out the present clauses of the Bill.

Mr. LANCASTER. The hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Loggie) has simply strengthened my argument because he shows that if the province, where the goods were canned, had passed the proper legislation or put that legislation, if passed, into effect, the instance which my hon. friend mentions could not have occurred. We have in Ontario a Public Health Act and an Inspection Act and so I believe has the province of Quebec, and if any other province has not passed any such legislation, there is nothing to prevent its doing so. The British North America Act provides that such legislation comes within provincial jurisdiction. Each province has ample power to deal with the adulteration of food or the canning of improper food, and there is no reason why a provincial inspector should not be appointed to see that the public health is protected. There is no need therefore for this parliament to interfere and create trouble in the trade relations between any two provinces.

Mr. LOGGIE. I quite agree with my hon. friend that the provinces have the power to do this but suppose they do not exercise that power. What is proposed now is to have every kind of meat inspected before it is put on our markets, and had such legislation been in force on the occasion I mention, we would not have had that unfit meat sent to New Brunswick.

On subsection 3,

Notwithstanding anything in this section the Governor in Council may, whenever it is deemed necessary or advisable to do so, authorize the export of any such article without inspection.

Mr. A. MARTIN. This is a very extraordinary provision. These articles have to be inspected and you have to come here to Ottawa for an order in council. I really believe the minister is sincere in trying to devise efficient means for the inspection of meats, but I advised him not to proceed with this at once but to hold it over for a year. He is by those clauses putting restrictions on the trade in regard to both meats and fish which will be very injurious to the trade indeed and inflict on the country very heavy expense without improving the situation. I believe that it is not the will of this House to grant these extraordinary powers to the Governor in Council; let those powers be defined in the Act. I