

about the measurement, and that is one of the reasons, I suppose, why we have these provisions in this Bill. It has always been considered that 128 cubic feet constitutes a cord of wood, and if it is found on actual measurement that a cord of wood does not contain that cubic quantity the seller is liable. I think that law has been in force during all my lifetime. If a man sold me a cord of wood, and claimed to deliver a cord of wood, I would expect him to deliver me 128 cubic feet, unless I said to him that I would accept 22-inch wood as if it were 24-inch. It is the consumers, not the dealers, who have requested their wood cut a certain length. I have never had any experience myself as a dealer in wood, but I know that it is not the dealer who is to blame. It is what the consumer actually has been getting in the way of length that has probably been the cause of all this disturbance. To impose a penalty such as is provided in these clauses will put some people to great inconvenience, and perhaps get them into trouble, because through the newspapers publishing articles advising people to go out and cut wood for next year, thousands of cords have already been cut in the bush all over the country of 20 and 22 inches. I have no doubt that the dealers in that wood will be absolutely satisfied to sell 128 cubic feet, but they will ask a little more in price, so the consumer will get no advantage.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I wish to add the following section as 359 B.

Notwithstanding anything in this Act wood may be sold other than by the cord, unless the cord be stipulated at the time of purchase.

That is to say, agreements can be made to buy and sell wood in any quantity, by the load or in any way at all, provided such is the agreement between the buyer and the seller.

Section agreed to.

On sections 360, 360A and 360B—Portland cement:

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: We have had a good deal of correspondence with reference to these three questions in respect to Portland cement. Objections have been taken on several grounds and have been very carefully considered, and the opinions of experts, engineers and others, have been obtained by the department. As a result of all this, I purpose making certain

amendments. Section 360 as it stands in the Bill reads:

Every bag of Portland cement sold or offered for sale in Canada shall contain ninety-four pounds net weight, and four such bags shall constitute a barrel.

I wish to substitute for that this section:

All Portland cement shall be sold by weight, and 94 pounds shall constitute a bag, and four such bags shall constitute a barrel.

That establishes that cement shall be sold by weight, and that the standard container shall contain 94 pounds. The bag, or something corresponding to the bag, is used as a container, and four of those bags constitute a barrel of 376 pounds. This principle has, with few exceptions, been practically agreed to. These changes have been canvassed by a committee of four of the Council of the Society of Civil Engineers—a cement manufacturer, a cement consumer and two engineers. As a result of their joint deliberations, I have the agreement of all the members of the committee, with the exception of one, and in accordance with that view, I have introduced this substitute clause. Objection is made that the present bag holds somewhere about 87½ pounds, and that if you now make a 94-pound standard weight, you cause a great deal of trouble and possibly a good deal of waste in connection with bags which are already ordered or which are on hand being used for putting up the cement at 87½ pounds to each bag. There is also a second objection, that other containers than bags are being used. Section 360A in the Bill reads:

Every bag in which Portland cement is filled and delivered shall be made of good strong fibrous material closely woven and in good repair when filled, and shall have plainly marked thereon the brand and name of the manufacturer and the net weight.

I think we can get over that difficulty, almost entirely, by substituting a section which I propose, as follows:

Every container in which Portland cement is offered for sale shall be made of suitable protective material, in good repair when filled, and shall have plainly marked thereon the brand and name of the manufacturer.

I understand that paper bags are being more and more used as a container for cement. It is also proposed that this Act shall not come into force until one year after it has received the signature of the Governor General. That will be sufficient time to make any adjustments that are necessary in the way of bags. The present bag, which is running at 87½ pounds to the bag, is, in most instances, sufficiently large to hold 94 pounds. Only