

a statement made in the house a few days ago by the hon. member for Yale, who said that a large amount of imported Australian butter was being wrapped in Canada in other wrappers and sold as Canadian butter. It is quite evident that the farmers in this country who milk their cows would not be doing that, and evidently it must be the dairymen's associations that are perpetrating this fraud. I would ask the minister to investigate that matter.

Mr. BARBER: I think we have a right to an answer from the minister as to whether it is permissible under the regulations to bring in forty or fifty cars of New Zealand butter, work it over in the dairies of this country, wash it and sweeten it, and sell it to the people as Canadian or Ontario butter.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Of course, that is quite contrary to the regulations, and if my hon. friend or anybody else will supply us with some evidence we will certainly investigate it. We are investigating complaints all the time. There is not a month that we are not prosecuting somebody for some offence under the regulations, and we do not mind taking on one more.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Is it not the duty of the department to investigate these complaints of its own initiative?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is true that quite frequently complaints are investigated following reports from our own inspectors; whenever complaints are made we investigate.

Mr. ADSHEAD: The direct charge was made in this house by an hon. member that certain companies were importing Australian butter, rewrapping it in Canadian wrappers, and selling it as Canadian butter. When these charges are made in this house by an hon. member surely it is the duty of the department to investigate them and try to get evidence substantiating the charges.

Mr. CHAPLIN: More specific charges than that have been made in this house. The statement has been made by hon. members that you do not have to go outside of this very district to find that that practice prevails only a few miles from Ottawa.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am sure the Minister of Justice can testify to the fact that hardly a month passes when we are not prosecuting someone for violation of our regulations. In connection with the live stock records here in Ontario, for instance, we prosecuted and had a man fined on four

charges, and the fines aggregated \$2,000. There can be no complaint made against the department of reluctance to prosecute offences under the acts or regulations. Just bring us something like evidence and we will investigate it for all it is worth.

Mr. TUMMON: Has the department made any investigations in regard to this particular matter?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. FRASER: Have any of your inspectors ever brought to your attention cases of the kind just mentioned where New Zealand butter is being wrapped in Canadian wrappers and sold as Canadian butter?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: One or two. The inspectors report to the Dairy Commissioner, he reports to the deputy minister, who reports to me. Complaints have come, but we have not had sufficient evidence to warrant a prosecution.

Mr. SENN: Is it not a fact that any dairy company that is sending out butter under its own label has to have that label registered? When they are reworking New Zealand butter and sending it to the market they put it in a different wrapper entirely, so they are not evading the regulations, after all. Is not that the reason that there have been no prosecutions?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They have to have registered labels for export cheese and butter. There is neither compulsory inspection nor labelling of cheese or butter for home consumption.

Mr. TUMMON: Under the regulations is it legal for a creamery to put New Zealand butter into their churns, work it over, sweeten it, and put it in pound prints and wrap it, placing the name of their factory on the wrappers?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is entirely illegal.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Wellington): Does the minister say it is not being done?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not say it is not being done at all. We would like to get sufficient evidence to enter a prosecution; but we have not had that yet.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Wellington): Then where is all this New Zealand butter going, what is it being sold as?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: As New Zealand butter.