

are not shipped, that is if it is possible to detect the crack with the naked eye. While there may occasionally be a cracked egg still the shippers try not to put in eggs of that character but only eggs that will be acceptable to the pool, because it is only strictly fresh eggs, "extras" and "pullet extras" that can be pooled. Those who pool eggs in Ontario, and the number is increasing all the time, are very much in favour of the grading of eggs. Personally, I am in favour of the grading of products. The graders, of course, should know their work and possibly it is true that sometimes they do not. I remember the time when hog grading was introduced. There was a great outcry in regard to it and people did not want their hogs graded. That hostile sentiment is gradually disappearing. It may be possible that on the open market, where the eggs are absolutely fresh and where the buyer is only concerned about their freshness. it is not likely he will care whether the eggs are "extras," "pullet extras," or "firsts" or "seconds." There is a good deal in what the hon. member has said, but I want to repeat that many farmers in Ontario do not sell their eggs in the open market. The only market for the county from which I come is in Owen Sound. In that connection I remember a little experience I had last year. I was going through Owen Sound and I had a large case of eggs. I thought I would take them to Owen Sound to see what price could be realized for them. I took the eggs along and found that I could have sold them to better advantage at home in Flesherton than in Owen Sound. That illustrates what may happen in connection with an open market. I would advise the farmers to sell their eggs through the pool.

Hon. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): I can readily understand and appreciate the reason for grading eggs for export, or obliging the wholesalers to grade eggs; but the imposition of the grading system upon those who take a basket of eggs to the market at Kingston, London, Guelph, or any other centre in the province, or in Canada, is nothing short of an absolute nuisance. I think the people of this country have sufficient intelligence to pick out a dozen of eggs. I do not think it is necessary for the government to place a guard over them, or send some person along to tell them what they should buy, or oblige the farmers to place a label in the basket and subject them to a fine if they do not conform to the grades which are specified in the regulations.

[Miss MacPhail.]

There are a number of grades mentioned in class 1. For example, grade (a) "specials" is thus defined:

Eggs of uniform size, weighing 25 ounces to the dozen and over, or 47 pounds net to the 30-dozen case; clean and free from stain, strong—

Not in smell.

—and sound in shell; air cell small, not over one-eighth of an inch in depth; white of egg to be firm and clear and yolk dimly visible.

What machinery does the farmer, or his wife, have to have in order to be perfectly sure that he or she shall not come under the penalty of the law? Well, the farmer's wife will have to have weight scales duly tested by government inspectors, I presume, in order to be sure that a dozen of eggs weigh 25 ounces. She may think that she is perfectly clear of any penalty under the law in that regard, but not so because the inspectors appointed by the government, desiring to show their authority and earn their salaries, come along and subject a few eggs out of the basket to candling. One of them takes a little rule out of his pocket and says: "Ah, you have these graded 'specials'. I want to point out to you that you have violated the law." "Why is that?" asks the woman. "Why, under that grade the air cell must not be more than one-eighth of an inch in depth. You can see for yourself if you look at this rule that the air cell in these eggs is three-sixteenths or nine-thirtyseconds of an inch." If that is so, she has violated the law. She is liable to a fine and imprisonment because, while the eggs may be all right in size and weight, the air cell is too deep. Her eyes may not be as good as his and she may make a mistake in estimating the one-eighth of an inch or thereabouts of the air cell, and so she comes within the law.

Supposing she is clear on that, then he points out to her again with the aid of a microscope or some other instrument he has at his disposal that while the eggs are correct as to weight and air cell, the white of the egg must be firm and clear and the yolk dimly visible. He says to the woman: "You can see for yourself that these eggs do not comply with the law; the yolk is not dimly visible; the line of demarcation between the yolk and the white is very clear and you have violated the law in that respect." So I might go through with the other different grades.

The whole thing is an absolute nuisance, a great inconvenience and an unnecessary expenditure on the part of the government. People who go to market might be trusted to select a basket of good eggs. Supposing