

*Meat and Canned Foods*

canned shellfish, the place of origin and the name and the name and address of the person, firm or corporation by whom they are packed or by whom they are imported provided that canned fish or canned shellfish imported into Canada to be exported again need only be labelled to show the country of origin; and no false or misleading mark or designation of the kind or variety of the contents shall be shown on any can of fish or shellfish imported for sale in Canada.

Mr. MARTELL: This clause will also apply to canned lobsters. For instance, there is a practice whereby lobsters which were packed say, in Newfoundland, come to Halifax, N.S., and are bought there by jobbers, repacked and exported. Supposing the label were destroyed, consciously or unconsciously, a jobber would be able to palm off those lobsters as Canadian lobsters. There is no protection for the Canadian lobster packed under strict departmental inspection as against the Newfoundland lobster. That is a very important point which the minister should consider.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I will take that matter into consideration with the officials of my department.

Mr. MacLAREN: The paper label is not sufficiently durable or permanent; it may be destroyed or lost, either deliberately or accidentally. Therefore, as has just been stated, once the label has been removed, it is impossible to identify where the particular can came from, supposing

4 p.m. a case of ptomaine poisoning has occurred—this is of great importance, because some cases of ptomaine poisoning are fatal. If a poisoned can is not marked in such a way that it can be identified, it is impossible to trace the factory in which the goods were put up and where there may be many other cans in the same condition. I trust that some means may be adopted of having a permanent mark on the can itself.

Mr. DUFF: While it would be a very good thing to have the individual tin stamped with the name of the packer, yet I think anybody who understands this business, realizes that it would be impossible for the canner to stamp every tin with his name. As regards bad fish which may be found in cans and ptomaine poisoning occurring from those bad fish, it is a well-known fact that when fish are packed in a can by the packer, he immediately puts a label on the can and that gives it a more attractive appearance. No grocer or fish dealer will sell a can of lobster or salmon

[Mr. Lapointe.]

unless the label still remains on the can in proper shape. The label makes the package more attractive and, consequently, the housekeeper will not buy a package of lobster or salmon unless there is on the can a label showing the name, quality and quantity of the contents and the packer's name and address. But it is quite possible, as the hon. member for St. John says, that after the can has been opened and the contents cooked they may be found to be affected. As a rule the first thing the housewife does before putting the can in a pot of hot water is to tear off the label, and if ptomaine poisoning follows the eating of the contents the housewife naturally is so excited that she does not remember which grocer she bought the can from, let alone who packed it. So it is absolutely impossible to mark these cans so that the public will know who packed the contents.

Mr. MARTELL: Is it not a fact that in a great many cases the name of the packer never appears on the label? For instance, a lot of wholesale grocers in Nova Scotia, such as Bauld Bros., will have a particular brand put up for themselves and the label does not disclose who actually packed the lobsters.

Mr. DUFF: I think my hon. friend refers to the packers of Newfoundland. All our Canadian packers place their name and their brand on the label. Both our lobster and salmon packers are very proud of their pack.

Mr. MARTELL: Is it not also a fact that small packers do not put any brand at all upon their pack? The lobsters are sent to a jobber in the lobster business at Halifax, and he re-packs the fish, placing his own brand upon the cans.

Mr. DUFF: That is exactly what this resolution is designed to make the packer do—put his own label on the can.

Mr. LAPOINTE: And take the responsibility.

Mr. DUFF: Exactly.

Mr. LADNER: Does not the minister think it a mistake to vest authority in an inspector to close a cannery if in his judgment it is not in a sanitary condition? As those who are familiar with the canning business are aware, the pack is put out during a period of four or five weeks, when a cannery will pack perhaps a hundred thousand cases. It seems to me that the