

body will agree that we should prevent, as far as we can, adulteration of any kind of food. This year those who have been adulterating maple sugar come back and ask permission still to sell adulterated sugar providing that they announce it to the public in a certain way, but they should not be allowed to adulterate it. Adulteration ought not to be encouraged, and the answer that should have been given those who came and asked the privilege of putting adulterated sugar on the market should have been: You must conform to the law, and the law passed last year requires that all maple sugar shall be pure. That should have been the answer instead of saying that they must announce that the sugar is adulterated. I think the objection taken by the hon. gentleman for Huntingdon (Mr. Robb) is very serious, and ought to be taken into consideration by the Government, that the Bill which my hon. friend is now amending was introduced last year at the request of the maple sugar makers. They protested against their product being adulterated in any way, and I am surprised that, twelve months after passing that law, those against whom the law was directed are able to come back again and obtain the privilege of doing what was denied them last year.

Mr. BLONDIN: Although this Bill may appear to give more protection to the adulterators, it is, on the contrary, an effort to devise some means to follow them. What has happened under the law of last year? We have had more adulteration of maple sugar than we had before. Why? Because the dealers put on the market maple syrup with all kinds of labels which we cannot control, which did not contain the word "maple," while in many cases they informed their customers verbally that it was maple syrup they were selling.

Mr. BUREAU: How is the labelling of the packages going to help? Supposing a man sells an adulterated package and does not label it, he is liable to a fine. You must first have an inspector analyse the contents of the package to ascertain that it is not pure maple syrup. Under the old Act the man selling such adulterated goods would be subject to a fine. This is only recognizing the compound of maple syrup and helping the man who wishes to cheat the public to put on the market an article not fit for consumption. If you want to prevent that and to prevent compounds going on the market, you ought to make the

[Sir Wilfrid Laurier.]

man who offers the adulterated article subject to a penalty. You have no more guarantee that the man who is going to adulterate maple syrup will put his label on it than that the man who is offering maple syrup will say: This is not the right stuff I am selling you; I have put yellow sugar in it. The minister knows that the man who resorts to that means will not spend money to put labels on his goods telling the public what he is doing.

Mr. BLONDIN: To-day it is left to my department to detect the adulterators; but by this Act we are compelling the adulterators to self-denunciation; every article that is put on the market must be labelled "imitation" if it is not pure.

Mr. BUREAU: Why legalize adulteration by putting that label on the package?

Mr. BLONDIN: We do not.

Mr. BUREAU: You do. I may go on the market with an adulterated package, but the moment I put on the package the words "compound maple syrup," I am within the law.

Mr. BLONDIN: It is more a question of whether our efforts to prevent adulteration is to prevent only for the sake of prevention or to make the public aware that they are buying adulterated goods. If I want to buy this imitation I have the choice of doing so. I do not think that we should prevent a man who wants to buy these imitations from doing so; but I think we must force the dealer to make the public aware that such and such products are compounds.

Mr. ROBB: The position that the minister has just taken is a complete change from the attitude of his predecessor last year, when the farmers and makers of maple syrup were before the Committee on Agriculture, and from the position taken by the Minister of Agriculture who was present at that gathering. Members of the Agricultural Committee may remember that quite a large deputation of maple sugar makers from the province of Quebec and eastern Ontario waited on the Minister of Inland Revenue and the Minister of Agriculture and objected to this very practice. They strongly resented the use of the word "maple" in connection with these adulterations that are made up in cellars in Montreal and sent out to the people in the Northwest and British Columbia, branded as maple sugar, or adulterated sugar,