

*Fruit and Fruit Containers*

tive during last year's fruit season and so the bill was not brought into force at that time. Now it has been again asked for, and we are bringing in a consolidated bill taking care of all the amendments, numbering some five or six, which have been made since the passage of the original act, known as the Fruit Marks Act, I think in 1901. The proposed bill in its entirety was asked for and agreed to by the different interests involved, including the growers and packers of fruit, the wholesale dealers, and all parties directly concerned in the fruit industry. The principal changes deal with the size of container. It has been found that our berry containers are only about four-fifths of the size of the American containers, and the result is that the surplus of our crop that is shipped to the United States has to be presented on that market in smaller containers than the United States containers, and consequently appears at a disadvantage. The request has also been made for a package of apples containing one-half of a barrel. It is said by those in the trade that many sales could be made of half a barrel when a full barrel could not be sold. It is therefore proposed to make provision for a container equal to the contents of half a barrel. None of these changes will take place arbitrarily until the year 1924. All material that is now cut awaiting manufacture into containers of the present size may be used in the meantime if so desired.

The bill will provide for a new grading of apples. Our apple growers have found that with apples graded as No. 1 and No. 2 they are regarded as inferior when competing with fruit styled "fancy", and "extra fancy" as it is styled in the United States. Now it is often said there is nothing in a name, but having had something to do with the naming of our grades of wheat under the standards board many years ago, and even quite recently, I know that there is something in a name. I know that if an article on the market is given a bad name it is handicapped with a bad getaway. Accordingly it is proposed to make a new grade for some of our fruits, particularly our apples, and also to have new-sized containers so that they will compete favourably on the American market when we ship any of our apples over there. I think that covers fairly well all the contemplated new provisions of the bill all of which, as I have already explained, were agreed to by the conference that met in Ottawa last February. The only thing that those attending the conference were not unanimous on at first was with respect to the size of berry boxes, but even in that matter they eventually reconciled their difference,

[Mr. Motherwell.]

and unanimously made the recommendations which I have outlined.

Mr. BROWN: In the proposed legislation is it made any easier for those who buy fruit and find they have been deceived in the grade to secure redress? I know that sometimes when we used to buy apples by the car load and distribute them co-operatively, we would find they were not up to standard, and it was almost impossible to get any redress, despite the fact that there were regulations in effect.

Mr. CALDWELL: Were those British Columbia apples?

Mr. BROWN: I shall not tell you where they came from.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I may say, the producers were in strong force at the conference referred to, but I cannot recall whether the consumers as a body were represented. I think they were, I believe I have a list of the representatives here.

Mr. BROWN: It is the consumers I am thinking of in this respect.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If my hon. friend will bear with me for a moment I think I have a list here of all those who were present at that conference. I observe that those represented were—the growers' shipping organizations, the wholesale dealers, the barrel manufacturers, the box manufacturers, the basket manufacturers, and others including nurserymen and retailers. I am sorry to admit that the unfortunate consumer does not seem to have been represented. Therefore, if my hon. friend has any representations to make on the consumers' behalf I will be very pleased to take it up in committee. My proposal is that the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture where we shall have lots of time to thresh out the contemplated legislation in detail.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if it is the intention of his department to change the marking of the Canadian package to conform to the marking in use, for example, in the state of Washington, where they have "extra fancy," "fancy" and so on, and to eliminate from our law the provision requiring that the grades be No. 1 and No. 2?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We propose to make the change in accordance with what the grade may be over there. If the committee decides that to use the names "extra fancy"