

Mr. DUFF: My hon. friend (Mr. J. H. Sinclair) asks whether ships which have been inspected in England and which shortly afterwards came to Canada should be obliged to undergo Canadian inspection. It seems to me that this inspection should apply only to vessels under Canadian registry.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: The inspection applies to all vessels coming into Canadian waters, whether of British or of Canadian registry. We are now making a charge of 10 cents per ton for the inspection of vessels which are under British registry; for those under Canadian registry no charge is made. If this resolution passes we shall increase the charge in respect of vessels under British registry to the tariff that I have stated, and the same tariff will apply to vessels of Canadian registry.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 49, to amend the Canada Shipping Act (Steamboat Inspection.)

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

FISH INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion of Hon. C. C. Ballantyne (Minister of Marine and Fisheries) the House went into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend the Fish Inspection Act, chapter forty-five of the Statutes of 1914, and to provide:—

(a) that the said Act shall apply to pickled herring, ale-wives, mackerel, and salmon other than mild cured salmon, and the containers in which such fish are packed and marketed;

(b) that the Governor in Council may order that the provisions of the said Act shall extend and apply to any other kinds of fish, whether pickled or not, and the containers in which such fish are packed and marketed; excepting, however, fish packed in cans or other hermetically sealed containers, and fish packed by fishermen or others for their own use and not for sale or intended to be used for any other commercial purpose;

(c) that regulations may be made by the Governor in Council prescribing the material to be used for containers of fish, the sizes of such containers, and how they shall be made and marked; and also how containers not in accordance with the requirements shall be dealt with; and prescribing the requirements as to the quality and weight of fish in the containers, and how and by whom containers in which fish are packed shall be marked; and, also, the time and place, and the manner in which containers and fish may be inspected, and how incorrectly marked fish shall be marked or re-marked.

[Mr. Ballantyne.]

(d) that all containers used for packing shall be made and marked, and all fish shall be graded, packed and marked, in accordance with the regulations;

(e) that all fish imported into Canada from other countries shall be packed in containers of a similar character and equal quality to those required under the proposed legislation; and shall be clearly marked with the kind, grade and weight of fish they contain, and with the name of the country of origin, provided that when such fish are imported into Canada for exportation it shall only be necessary that the container in which such fish are packed be marked with the name of the country of origin;

(f) that with certain limitations an appeal to the minister may be made in case of dispute between an inspecting officer and the packer, owner or other person;

(g) that inspectors shall have the right to enter upon any premises, vessel or boat for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Act as amended;

(h) that penalties may be imposed, and containers and fish forfeited and seized for violation of the Act or regulations; and

(i) that the proposed legislation shall come into force with respect to fish caught on the Pacific coast on the first day of November, 1920, and with respect to fish caught on the Atlantic coast on the first day of April, 1921.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: On March 28, 1919, a similar resolution was introduced into this House and the Bill was afterwards referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries, but owing to the resolution not being introduced until late in the session the standing committee last year did not have time to consider the legislation fully, and it was therefore held over. It is my intention after the second reading of the Bill to refer it to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries, and I desire now only to say that there has been a general request made upon the department to have the inspection of pickled fish made compulsory instead of voluntary. The Canadian Fisheries Association, for example, have passed a resolution urging the department to make the inspection compulsory, and a large number of packers, as well as the Commissioner of Fisheries for British Columbia, have asked for legislation along this line. I shall not take up the time of the Committee by referring to the great fisheries of Canada, dealt with so ably and eloquently a few nights ago by my hon. friend (Mr. Duff). Suffice it to say that if Canadians who are engaged in the fishing industry desire to make the fish of Canada more popular than at present, and want a wider market, it seems to me the inspection of fish ought to be compulsory instead of voluntary. That applies also to the containers of fish. I think it is wise that standards should be adopted