

Mr. CASGRAIN: I understand that we are to get some information from the minister. I would ask therefore that the clause be allowed to stand.

Section stands.

On section 3—Regulations.

Mr. CASGRAIN: In the explanatory notes it is stated:

This is necessary in order to permit fixing of a legal standard for any dairy product by the governor in council.

I am wondering whether there will be any conflict between the provisions of the bill we are now considering and the other bill, the marketing bill, which will be taken up shortly. In this bill are we given to understand that the governor in council will fix the standard of butter which is to be put on the market? That is what the explanatory note says. Is the governor in council going to fix the various standards of butter in the country?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): This also is an extension to include dairy products that are not now included, products of a type different from those dealt with when the act was last revised—for example, processed cheese. It does not change in any way the principle of the act as it now stands.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: How were these standards arrived at before the amendments were proposed?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): This does not mean a new set of standards; it is merely an extension so that standards may be set up for products not now named, products that have come into being since this act was last amended. There is no change in principle.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Is it the object of this bill to fix a standard for cream? As we all know, cream is a noble word which has very often been prostituted to represent a low grade commodity very little different from milk. For instance, when you ask for a certain grade of cream, cereal cream or any other, the percentage of fat if I remember rightly is about 10 per cent, perhaps lower in some cases. Milk left in its natural state will give up its cream and I believe the right percentage of fat in the natural state is something around 18 per cent. Are we going to allow this noble word "cream," which is so appealing, to be degraded, representing a product with 10 per cent of fat? I wish the minister would be good enough to consider this question carefully and give the committee an assurance that in the near future he will fix some standard which will not be confusing to either producer or consumer.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The amendments proposed by this bill deal only with manufactured products and that would not include cream.

Mr. CASGRAIN: If we are a little concerned about this matter it is because it is important. The explanatory note in connection with paragraph (h) of clause 2 just passed, reads:

This paragraph is amended to include mineral oil in a definition of fat. This is necessary as such an oil might be used in the manufacture of a substitute for butter.

I am afraid, if we pass this bill and give this power to the governor in council to brand, mark and classify certain standards of butter and cheese in accordance with the bill, we might before long have substitutes that might be passed through, adopted, classified and passed as correct and that would be in competition with the dairy products of our farmers in the various provinces. I think this bill is drafted more in order to benefit the jobbers and others who trade in that line of business, who buy and resell the product, than to protect the man of the soil.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The purpose of these amendments is to do exactly what the hon. member seems to fear is not being done. No new powers are given and the purpose is now as it has been in the past, to bring the people to whom he refers under control, so that the consumer may know what he is purchasing. The effort is being made to protect the farmer's product against substitutes that we do not consider so beneficial. The purpose of these amendments is, so far as I can understand the hon. member's observations, to do exactly what he wishes done and it gives no additional powers to the government; it is a widening of the definition.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I am glad to hear that.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Do I understand the minister to say that the farmer who produces butter and goes around selling it is not affected by this bill?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): He is not.

Mr. CASGRAIN: That is the explanation we require. Will the minister answer the question of the hon. member for Provencher?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): He has answered it.

Mr. DUPUIS: In answer to the hon. member for Kamouraska the minister said that this clause will not affect cream. What does paragraph (f) of clause 2 mean? It reads:

"Dairy product" "dairy products" or "dairy produce" means any milk, cream, condensed milk, evaporated milk—