

the lobster exporter at a disadvantage, but rather the contrary, because the consumer would know exactly how much edible meat he was buying.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That really was the position of the lobster canners last season. Although the cans indicated a net weight of fourteen ounces of lobster meat, the packers contended they could not possibly get that amount of meat into the one-pound can.

Mr. McMASTER: It does not make very much difference how much meat there is in the can, so long as the amount is plainly stated on the label. That would protect the commercial reputation of Canada.

Mr. LOGGIE: This matter was before the House five or six years ago when the law was being amended, and it was then pointed out that lobster for export was demanded in plain cans. The buyers in France use their own labels, and I think they have laws protecting the public in that country, as we have here; and the finding on that occasion was that for export it was allowable to let the cans go without any labels, as it would very materially interfere with the canned lobster industry if we were compelled to put labels on here, and these labels had to be taken off and the buyers' labels put on on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I do not think the minister should press the resolution without some further consideration. The reasons do not appeal to me at all. We are told that in Newfoundland the can is smaller, or the quantity is smaller. The Dominion of Canada is the largest lobster packing country in the world; and why should we change the size of the can to suit the little island of Newfoundland? There is no good reason for it.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I did not say that.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Where does the uniformity come in? No lobsters are packed in the United States. We have a monopoly of the packing business outside of Newfoundland. There is no lobster packing in Europe, as far as I know. If the idea is to aim at uniformity, let us make it uniform here, without raising any question about any outside place. If we say the quantity of lobster to be put into a can must be 14 ounces, it will be uniform as far as we are concerned. It is also said that the machinery that the packers have for making their cans is not adapted to the quantity that is now put into the cans.

[Mr. McMaster.]

That is not a good reason. It may be a reason for one season, or for some temporary arrangement, but it is not a sufficient reason for the passing of an Act. My hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Loggie) says that changing the weight would not affect the price. That is quite true, but it affects the quantity you get out of the can.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I think this is in the interests of the consumer, because he will know the exact quantity of lobster meat he is buying. Heretofore he was deceived, because lobsters were sold by the pound can, three-quarter pound, and half-pound cans, and naturally the purchaser believed he was obtaining 16 ounces of lobster meat in the pound can, whereas it was impossible for the can to hold 16 ounces, since it had to contain a certain amount of liquid preservative. The purpose of this Bill is to fix the number of ounces of lobster meat that will be contained in the can. It is in the interest of the consumer just as much as of anybody else, because every provision is being put into the Bill to safeguard the consumer. With regard to the lobster canner, I think the position he takes is perfectly sound. The law required him to put a certain amount of lobster meat into certain cans, which he could not do. Now, I do not see who will be injured by this Bill. I think it is eminently wise legislation and that the committee should accept it.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Bill No. 12, respecting W. C. Edwards and Company, Limited.—Mr. Fripp.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill No. 20, to incorporate Canadian Merchant Service Guild.—Mr. McQuarrie.

Bill No. 21, respecting the English Valley and Hudson Bay Railway Company.—Mr. Fripp.

Bill No. 23, respecting the Manitoba and North Western Railway Company of Canada.—Mr. Cruise.

### MEAT AND CANNED FOODS ACT AMENDMENT.

The House resumed consideration in committee of the whole on the resolution to