

for the past twenty years, who have spent their lives in the business, and have made it what it is to-day? I do not think so. We should have no interference regarding the quality of our export cheese or butter. I know of no other country in the world except New Zealand and Australia that has its cheese and butter graded before being exported. Why is grading done in those countries? Because the transportation takes so long a time and the product is exposed to such high temperature that it frequently deteriorates in transit; but the Government certificate regarding the quality of the product relieves the shipper of responsibility. The same conditions, I am happy to say, do not apply to Canada. If we have goods that require transportation in cold storage, we have facilities on the steamer.

I have been engaged in this great dairying industry since the year 1873. Only yesterday I paid out nearly \$30,000 for cheese; and I have bought as much more for delivery next week. Surely I must have learned something regarding the dairy trade in that period of time; if not, I should not be engaged in it to-day. I know certain customers in England and elsewhere who can use a cheese that possibly might not be what is termed the finest, although it is good merchantable stuff. It can perhaps be bought at one-quarter or one-half a cent less than finest grade. But if that cheese has to go to the grader's store for a certificate, and is branded No. 2 and is exported under that brand, I have to take a cent or a cent and a half a pound less than its actual value as a food product.

I fail to see any necessity for this legislation at this time. Take, for instance, the cheese that is made in the month of July. I can remember certain seasons when it was almost an impossibility to get what might be termed finest or fancy cheese, owing to the high temperature—something over which the milk producer or the manufacturer has no control. Many and many a can of milk, I know, goes wrong in hot weather. The milk is refused at the factory. If it were made into cheese, the cheese would deteriorate immediately. Now, that can be used as a product; but if it is to be branded as second or third, whom are you going to help by that? You are going to injure the trade. You are going to injure the dealer.

I take great pleasure in moving that this Bill be not read now a second time, but be read this day six months.

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Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: In answer to the observations of the honourable member from Brockville, I would point out that the proposed grading of dairy products is not a new venture, as his remarks would lead the House to assume. It was done on a voluntary basis last year. At the port of Montreal alone 43,887 boxes of cheese, for example, were inspected and graded, of which 34,650, or 79 per cent, graded No. 1. That cheese has gone to the export market bearing the approval of the Canadian Government Inspector as being of A-1 quality. We know the importance of maintaining the reputation which Canadian cheese has gained in other countries, and it is quite as important that our reputation should be preserved and extended to other dairy products.

There is an inspection of canned goods and of all our abattoirs. The killing of meat and its preparation for market is all done under inspection. If after years of experience such inspection is proven to be justifiable and in the public interest, why is it not just as proper that the same general method should be adopted and the same principle prevail in connection with dairy products?

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I understand that it would not be compulsory upon anybody to have his cheese or butter graded; that this measure is only for the purpose of establishing a means whereby the grading may be done in case it is required by the owner of the goods. Is my understanding of the Bill correct?

Hon. JOHN WEBSTER: In reply to the honourable the Minister (Hon. Mr. Robertson), I might say that there is now a grader in Montreal who will settle all disputes over quality. If I buy a thousand cheese from a dealer, and they are shipped to Montreal, and if I find that 1, 2, 3 or 4 factories are of inferior quality, I go to that inspector and get a certificate as to how many 1's and 2's there are in the lot, and I can settle according to that certificate or can send back the stuff to the man who owned it. That is the situation, and that is what it should be.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: How long has that been going on?

Hon. Mr. WEBSTER: For the last three years.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is that under the Inspection Act?