

responsibility for this outrageous system may be placed upon the proper shoulders. We never had this system until the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) occupied his present position. The government must take the full responsibility for this system. I have stated in the motion which I have moved that the action of the government has resulted in this loss, this injustice, and this inconvenience, and I ask by this motion that these regulations or this act be amended. It is the simplest thing in the world to change these regulations. In order to effect a change and relieve the agriculturists of the country from this burden and this oppression only a few words need be added to the definition of "retailers" excluding the farmer from that definition. We have excluded him in the case of other acts passed by this House. We specifically excluded him, I remember, in the case of the Bankruptcy Act and other acts which I could name. Just add a few words to your definition of "retailer" providing that this shall not include a farmer who sells eggs, the product of his own farm, direct to the consumer upon the open market, and you have achieved all he asks.

I am going to put on record a formal resolution which has been sent to me by the Women's Institute of South Wellington. It is signed by all the officers. In looking over the names I regret to say that some of them are not supporters of mine, but the resolution is brief and pointed and I am going to read it. It was passed by the Women's Institute of South Wellington on 13th of February last, and reads as follows:

Resolved that we the representatives of the South Wellington Women's Institute protest against the present egg grading system and wish to have it abolished.

I believe that resolution expresses the real wish of the whole agricultural population of this country engaged in the production of eggs. Even those men in our smaller cities, and in our towns and villages who have a small egg production for their own home consumption and who may at the end of the week have two or three dozen to sell or trade to their grocer, if they do not have those two or three dozen eggs graded, are subject to a horrible penalty, for the penalty under this act for infraction of the law includes a maximum fine of \$500 and imprisonment up to three months, simply because the farmer who has for generations enjoyed a free open market now has to go before a government grader and pay two cents a dozen for the privilege of having his eggs graded or degraded as the case may be. I ask the House to consider this

as a question strictly in the interests of the agricultural population of Canada, and particularly in the interest of the wives of Canadian farmers who, in the majority of circumstances, are the people who suffer the most, who suffer all the inconvenience, and let me tell you that in cold weather the inconvenience is not slight.

Miss AGNES C. MACPHAIL (Southeast Grey): I am interested in eggs and am therefore concerned with their grading. I do not expect, in anything I may say, to voice the opinion of all farm women. I know nothing about the conditions prevailing upon the open market, but after all most of the farmers of Canada do not sell their eggs in the open market—they ship them.

I want to tell hon. members what my experience has been and what I think about the grading of eggs. I think that "specials" could quite well be stricken from commercial grades. There are almost no "specials," but there are "extras," "pullet extras" and so on, and these grades can soon be recognized by people who are accustomed to handling eggs. "Pullet extras" is a grade that all farmers are glad has been established, because pullets' eggs are smaller than the eggs of hens a year or two old; and these eggs that would be "extras" under any other form of grading would not be "extras" of there were not a grade provided for smaller eggs, which are called "pullet extras." I went to the Minister of Agriculture some time ago and protested against these designations, "extras," "pullet extras," and "Nos. 1 and 2" and wondered why they did not grade them as "1, 2, 3 and 4"; for that really represents the grades. I began then to see the point of view of the minister. People do not buy seconds, thirds and fourths, and I found that if these eggs are to be sold they must be sold in such a way as to indicate clearly to the buyers what they are buying.

I think this is the effect of grading eggs: In the first place, it raises the standard. The consumer is guaranteed that if he buys under the act he will get just the quality he wants. anybody who goes into a store 3 p.m. and purchases "extras" or "pullet extras" will know exactly what he is getting. The standard has been raised and on account of the guarantee of quality the consumption of eggs has been increased. There has been an increased production of eggs in Ontario and I suppose that is true also of the rest of Canada. Since the grading of eggs came in we ship our eggs through the pool. The eggs are taken from the nest twice a day, not once a day, and the nests are kept perfectly clean. Eggs having the slightest crack