

Fisheries and if there is any additional information I will give it to the House.

Mr. MURPHY: The minister announced that the Fuel Controller had secured an assistant in the United States but he did not mention who he was?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Mr. McCue. He has been retained by the Fuel Controller on the recommendation of the committee in Washington—the head committee in the United States which has the question of the coal supply in its charge. He was looking for the very best available man he could get and this is the man who has been recommended to him and whom he has employed.

#### MARKING OF PACKAGES CONTAINING HUMAN FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

House in committee to consider the following proposed resolution, Mr. W. H. Bennett in the Chair.

That it is expedient to provide that packages containing human food or other commodities should be marked with the name and address of the fillers, the weight, measure or quantity of their contents, and the dates of packing; but not including packages for export, articles weighed or measured at the time of sale in the presence of the purchaser, or fresh fruit and vegetables; that penalties should be provided for violations of these provisions, and that such provisions should come into force on the first day of January, 1918.—Sir George Foster.

Mr. PUGSLEY: What is covered by the words "other commodities"?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: All goods offered for sale. The resolution, I think, explains itself. I do not know that any further explanation can add to it. Of course, the details will appear when we come to consider the Bill itself. Under present methods, which obtain very largely, commodities are contained in packages or containers with the supposed weight in some cases marked and in other cases not marked. The old system of weighing out everything to the customer from large receptacles has become less and less the custom. There is a very wide call that all shoppers should be protected as far as possible by having marked on packages the names of the responsible makers and the weights. This is necessary for several reasons, first as a guarantee of the quality of the goods, but particularly for the carrying out of the Act itself. The man who makes the goods is responsible for the marking of them and they carry his brand and name. In the second place the quantity and weight should be

marked upon the package so that the buyer can be certain as to just exactly what it contains.

Mr. NESBITT: The net weight of the contents or the gross weight?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The gross weight, I think.

Mr. NESBITT: It should be the net weight.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am not certain as to that. I will have to look at the Bill, but that will all come out in the discussion of the Bill.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Would it include such articles as cement in bags or barrels?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: All packages containing human food or other commodities.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The difficulty I see about using the words "human food" first and then saying "other commodities" is that the definition which would be given to the words "other commodities" would be that they would mean commodities of a like character to "human food." If it is intended to embrace commodities such as cement, fertilizers and a thousand and one things, why not, instead of using the words "human food" say that all packages containing any commodities shall be marked with the name, etc.? When you use the words "human food" and then say "other commodities" these latter words would be difficult to interpret as being general in their application. A court would say that it was intended to be limited to commodities of a similar character to human food. These words are obviously words of limitation. Why put in any specific description first because the words "other commodities" will be interpreted as applying to commodities of a like character to those specified previously?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The idea was especially to emphasise the importance of human food.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The minister may remember the question that arose in Ottawa within the last few weeks when the city complained that the weight of cement in bags was light. I do not see why this legislation should not apply to cement.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It applies to all.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But the minister, by using the words "human food," is rendering it very doubtful whether the section