

Perhaps some livestock producers and buyers need more time to adapt and this may be where the problem is. A buyer goes into the sales ring to bid on a steer at 78 cents per pound and buys it for \$936. In metric, 78 cents per pound would be \$1.71 per kilogram but the net proceed to the producer is still \$936. I believe it is just a matter of time until we adapt and are able to keep abreast of other countries in the world. Perhaps this is one sector of the agricultural industry where patience is needed. Approximately 75 per cent of the agricultural community is already converted to metric. It is wrong to imply that it should be delayed until the rest catch up.

A shift to the voluntary metric conversion process is required. I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that conversion to metric is already a voluntary process. Of the 100 sectors only three—gasoline sales by the litre, home furnishings, and retail food scales—are subject to regulation under the Weights and Measures Act of 1971. Only those three are subject to the regulations, so we are in a voluntary process of conversion. In all three of these cases the relevant regulations have been requested from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs by the industries concerned, with the approval of the Consumer's Association of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, my intervention will not be long. There are a few things that I think we ought to bear in mind in this debate on the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott). I was rather staggered to learn here today about the system international which was decided upon apparently as the system which should be used in Canada for the conversion, and to learn in particular that it was applicable only in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

● (1650)

I have had representations made to me about the standards, particularly from the mechanical industries. These pertained to gauges of screws and bolts and the incline of the threads on bolts. There is no universal standard for these particular parts in the mechanical field so that if one were to take a bolt say, from one of the cars imported from Japan, and tried to use it on a nut that had been produced here, both metric size, they probably would not fit because the inclines of the plane of the threads were not identical. There is no standard bolt threading of gauge in metric at the present time. Until those standards are approved, I think it is folly to proceed further.

My second observation has to do with the selling of products by dozens. I do not know how many hon. members have noticed, but when one goes to buy flowers, they are not sold in dozens any more. They are sold by dizaines. The price is the same but there are only ten in a bunch. Those are called dizaines. It is the same for eggs.

[*Translation*]

**An hon. Member:** Dizaine!

### *Metric Conversion*

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** No, dizaine, douzaine, there are douzaines and dizaines but the price remains the same. [*English*]

The price remains the same, and this I suggest is one of the influences causing inflation. Had it been the other way and we get 13, I wonder what a baker's dizaine would be. Would it be 11? It could be.

My third comment has to do with this nonsense about voluntarism, or voluntary as in the army voluntary. Actually people have been misusing a term in this House, and I would like to suggest that where we are at this time on the metric is that we are faced with a Hobson's choice. Hobson's choice is generally interpreted as being either this or that. People talk about Catch 22. I think that is where we run into a little difficulty, when you divert from that, you are faced with another difficulty. But Hobson's choice, as defined in the shorter Oxford dictionary is as follows:

—the option of taking the one thing offered or nothing.

It is derived I suppose from what Hobson did. He was an ostler who rented horses in Cambridge. When a person went to rent a horse from him he would say, "There is your horse. The first horse inside the stable." That was Mr. Hobson, and that is your choice. This is the choice we have with metric. I see the first actual reference was 1660 when Hobson's choice was as follows:

—chuse whether you will have this or none.

There are other references to Hobson's choice. So Hobson's choice is what we have in the metric system today.

I do feel that we should be very careful about using the word voluntary in this connection because here we are confronted with this. I wonder from time to time whether the word imperial as connected with the imperial measure has somebody's back up because the imperial regimes that we knew in the British empire, the French empire and so on have ended. Is it because the word imperial is attached to that expression that it has come to be overturned in the Hobson's choice, and by voluntarism we are now in the thick of it and getting dizaines when we buy flowers instead of dozens.

**Mr. Jim Schroder (Guelph):** Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity on my first speech in the House of Commons to congratulate you and your colleagues in the chair. I hope you will carry my felicitations to Madam Speaker who is such an asset to this august chamber.

I welcome the opportunity to speak to this motion in my maiden speech to the House of Commons as a member of Parliament for the riding of Guelph. The rules governing debate at this time do not permit me to speak about my riding as much as I would like to, but the particular subject at hand is one of vital interest to my constituency. My area is heavily populated with small and large businesses that are very much affected by regulations pertaining to weights and measures. The consumer is also very much affected. The Government of Canada has never maintained that conversion to metrication would be a simple matter. Industry in general concedes that