

Mr. BRODEUR. That has not been done so far as we are aware, and indeed I am informed by the deputy that it would be impossible.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend from Kootenay (Mr. Galliher) appears to regard the two years' restriction as a burden upon the Canadian distiller to which the foreign distiller is not subjected. I think if he makes inquiries he will discover that the Canadian distiller would not regard it as a burden, but rather as an advantage.

Mr. GALLIHER. If there is any advantage in keeping liquor in bond for two years, our people should get the benefit of it.

Mr. HENDERSON. No doubt the distiller regards it as an advantage, because, to my mind, that is the very highest form of protection, inasmuch as it prevents new distilleries from being opened up.

Mr. BARR. It seems to me there is a good deal to be said in favour of the proposition of the hon. member for Kootenay (Mr. Galliher). It does seem to me to be a hardship and injustice. When importers bring in Scotch whisky in any quantity and sell it, certainly they have an advantage over the Canadian distiller, and importers do bring in Scotch whisky and sell it at less than the Canadian manufacturer can sell it.

Mr. BRODEUR. I suppose the foreign manufacturer is apprised of what is going on in this country, and will consume larger quantities of our own spirits on account of their superior excellence. Because I think it has been kept in bond two years, and in some cases seven or eight, or ten years, kept in wooden barrels so as to improve greatly the quality of the spirits. That is a reason, I think, why some of our spirits now are getting a reputation abroad.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. What do the Canadian distillers do with the large quantity of American spirits that are brought into this country of late? I have been given to understand that the native product has not been sufficient for their trade, and they have been importing largely of American spirits. I want to know what is done by the Canadian distiller with these spirits that they import from the United States.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am not aware that our distillers have been importing spirits from abroad. But they can if they please, because to-day every man in the country has a right to import spirits from any foreign country, whether those spirits have been manufactured for a year or for a longer period.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. But cannot that spirit, in some way, come within the jurisdiction, so to speak, of the Inland Revenue Department? It comes through the cus-

toms, but the Inland Revenue Department makes provision that all spirits in this country bottled by Canadian distilleries shall have the quality of age. What I want to get at is whether or not a large quantity of spirits has been imported from the United States and has gone out as the product of Canadian distilleries though it has not the quality of age.

Mr. FIELDING. What inducement would there be to do that? For they would have to pay the custom duty.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Because the Canadian distilleries have not been able to make enough spirits for their own trade. I would like the Minister of Customs to throw some light upon this question. I am told that there have been enormous importations of American spirits into this country. There is a big concern, with its headquarters in Toronto and made up of all the distilleries of the country; and this concern has made these enormous importations.

Mr. BRODEUR. Why should they be prevented from importing?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I have heard it stated that this whisky is labelled Canadian whisky, which is supposed to have an age of two years. Yet it is new spirits. I am asking the Minister of Inland Revenue, who ought to know, what becomes of these large importations of American spirits. Does he know of this association of Canadian distillers which is making these importations?

Mr. BRODEUR. I must tell my hon. friend (Mr. W. F. Maclean), for perhaps he is not aware of it, that all the spirits made here bear on the bottles the certificate of the age at which it is bottled. This certificate bears the signature of the officers of the department. Any persons importing spirits cannot use these labels. Therefore, it could not be sold as Canadian spirits, for if that were attempted the fraud would be detected.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Well, then, my question still stands—does the minister know of these large importations and what is done with them?

Mr. BRODEUR. We have no means of ascertaining.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. In justice to the Canadian Inland Revenue Department, I say the minister ought to know what is done with these large importations of American spirits into this country. He might ask his colleague the Minister of Customs what are done with these importations.

Mr. BRODEUR. The Department of Inland Revenue has to look after the collection of duties on spirits manufactured here. We are not concerned about the importations of foreign spirits.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. But suppose that the minister heard—I do not know that the