

barrel of cement is indicated on page 10 of their circular No. 33, January 18th, 1917; re legal weights at present in United States.

With that was sent a copy of the Bureau of Standards and on page 10 there is the regulation No. 9:

The cement shall be delivered in suitable bags, or barrels, with the brand and name of the manufacturer plainly marked thereon, unless shipped in bulk. A bag shall contain 94 pounds net. A barrel shall contain 376 pounds net.

There is no doubt at all that that is the legal standard in the United States, and has been for years.

Mr. MORPHY: Will the minister say that it is not the practice throughout the whole of the United States to use 87½ pound bags?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I do not know how far that practice goes.

Mr. MORPHY: I will tell the hon. minister something more about the matter and have it put on Hansard for guidance.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: If it is as stated by the hon. member it does not affect the principle of the standard being 94 pounds to the bag and 376 pounds to the barrel.

Mr. MORPHY: The minister will readily see the difficulty that will be created by a change in our law, if the cement manufacturers in the United States and in Canada are using an 87½ pound bag. As a matter of fact I understood the minister to say that one reason for the introduction of the present Bill was to assimilate the standards?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. MORPHY: But this legislation is going to change the practice apparently. If the Bill is merely for the purpose of fixing a standard which is not going to be used, I do not see very much necessity for such legislation. Now, to quote from another letter:

When you realize that the consumer has every mix regulated for an 87½ lb. sack and he tells a gang of Dagoes how many sacks to put in a mix, you can see what it will mean to allow for 6½ lb. extra in each sack, particularly if you remember that the 87½ lb. balances the cubic footage upon which all formulas are based better than any other weight, and again remember that the mixers of cement are frequently labourers who come from the United States and, for that matter, go from Canada to the United States, and are used to the 87½-lb. sack all over the Continent.

Now, if that is so the minister is hinging the merits of the Bill upon a practice that

does not exist, and taking an academic standard from some Bureau of Standards in the United States which has not been followed by the practical workers in dealing with cement, so his justification for the Bill absolutely falls to the ground. I think, therefore, the minister ought to consider the suggestion made here and hold the Bill until he finds a little further about the existing practice.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I will inquire what the practice is.

Mr. MORPHY: Besides, I agree with the apparent general consensus of opinion that this is no time to disturb trade conditions. The minister has not shown to the House any reason for bringing in this Bill, except probably it might be founded upon the suggestion of a man who never dealt in cement or never mixed cement in his life but was in the minister's office here and got the minister to bring forward the Bill in order that he might get some kudos out of it. All the practical and technical knowledge of the House is against the Bill, and I think it should be held up and left over until some further reason is shown for its enactment.

Mr. CURRIE: Might I make one suggestion which might, perhaps, clear away the difficulty? I suggest to the minister that he put the word "standard" in his amendment, making it read a "standard bag," or a "standard barrel." The whole question is one of contract. I engage to purchase a thousand bags or barrels of cement from a manufacturer. By specifying standard bags he would be obliged to furnish that quantity of cement. If I did not, he could supply any lesser amount he might choose. The question of standardization has been acute in the United States and Great Britain. A great many articles of commerce were not standardized. For instance, the standards for sheet iron in these two countries were not the same. In Great Britain there was the Birmingham gauge and the London gauge, and all that sort of thing, and the same thing applied in the United States, where, for sheet iron, there were various gauges and thicknesses. The ultimate result was that the purchaser was always getting the worst of it. The United States have established a Bureau of Standards, and have fixed standards for sheet iron, wire, bar iron, boiler plate and everything of that kind. These standards are fixed in collaboration with all other countries; it is an international movement. I think the minis-