

without any knowledge of the regulations that are to be drawn up. If that system was adopted in connection with all the business that came before Parliament, we might just as well stay home and let the Government carry on the business itself. Personally, I think this is a case where we should state clearly and definitely what the size of the containers shall be. Then people would know that the size was fixed by statute, and would not be changed by regulations which might hereafter be passed.

Mr. BUREAU: The hon. member (Mr. Stacey) seems to think that because a man is not a fruit grower he should not take part in anything that interests the people of this country. When he told us that we knew nothing about fruit growing, I do not know whether he wanted us to infer that he did know something about it and was in fact getting up and addressing the committee as an authority. If it is really true, I am glad to know that he knows something about something.

We do not stand here in the interests of the fruit growers or the makers of packages. We stand here for principle, in the interests of the taxpayers of Canada. This is not simply a case of determining the size of barrels or boxes for the packing of fruit. Parliament passed certain legislation after a conference with the fruit growers of Canada. They certainly know something about the growing and packing and shipping of fruit, as much no doubt, as my hon. friend (Mr. Stacey). They are also taxpayers of this country, and they have sent representatives here to this Parliament to exercise the powers which the constitution gives them and not to delegate those powers to the Governor in Council. We are here to represent the people and legislate for them. My hon. friend (Mr. Stacey) may choose to carry on the business of this country by Order in Council, but I, for my part, will not accept that principle. I think this Bill is wrong in principle because it asks Parliament to divest itself of rights which it has exercised, and wisely exercised, after taking all due precautions by consulting those interested in this industry in this country. The legislation which was passed in 1919 was assented to by all the fruit growers of this country. If in the working out of the Act there has been discovered any flaw or something wrong, I say we are entitled to know what those flaws are, and what it is we are asked to remedy. I think we should have a statement from the minister as to the evils he desires to correct, and

[Mr. Sutherland.]

I say further that it is the duty of this Parliament to provide the remedy and not divest itself of its responsibility and privilege of enacting legislation with respect to these matters.

Mr. TOLMIE: I should like to give a little more information. I have already referred to the apple barrel which will contain 7056 cubic inches. It has been found necessary to make a change with respect to the berry baskets, because the express companies practically gave the fruit men to understand that they would cease to carry the fruit in the old package on account of the loss entailed. Under the old conditions the packages contained sloping sides. They are now being made nearly straight in the sides and will contain the same quantities as before, 11 quarts and 6 quarts. This safer carriage of fruit of course means cheaper fruit for every one. These conferences are held by the fruit men and all these matters are carefully discussed with representatives from all over the country, and there is no doubt that the delegates that come to these meetings have previously consulted all the fruit men in their respective districts, so that you really get the opinion of the best fruit men from all over Canada. I know, as a civil servant who has spent a number of years in the Health of Animal and Live Stock branches, that in many cases circumstances have occurred that made Orders in Council necessary, for very serious losses might have taken place had matters been held up until such time as legislation could come before Parliament. I do not wish in any way to push this matter unduly. I desire to do the right thing by hon. members, and if in their opinion this legislation should be referred to the committee on agriculture I am quite willing to accept that view.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the clause carry?

Mr. BUREAU: I understand that the minister is willing to refer the matter to the committee on agriculture, and that appears to be the opinion of all hon. members. It is desirable that we should have a thorough discussion of the subject in the light of further information.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is desired to refer the Bill to the select standing committee on agriculture there must be a motion to report progress. When the Bill is before the House it can be referred by the House to that committee.