

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The *Fish Inspection Act*, chapter 72 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, requires that harrels or other containers of such fish as come under the provisions of the Act, be made in accordance with defined standards, that the fish be cured, graded and packed as prescribed in the regulations, and that the marks placed on the containers by the packer correctly represent the kind, grade and weight of the contents.

Inspectors appointed under the Act are not at present required to inspect and mark every harrel or container of fish packed within their respective districts. They are authorized, however, to inspect as many of such as they find it possible to do. This necessarily leaves much room for a great number of harrels of fish of poor quality to slip through to market without inspection.

The purpose of the attached bill, therefore, is to make it obligatory for inspectors to inspect all fish and barrels which come under the provisions of the Act, by prohibiting the sale or shipment of such until they have been inspected and officially marked. It is proposed to secure this by amending subsections 1 and 2 of section 8 of the existing Act.

1. Section 1 of the Bill is intended to amend subsection 1 of section 3 of the Act as enacted by chapter 22 of the Statutes of 1930 (1st Session), with a view to making it clearer that the Act applies to herring, alewives, mackerel and salmon cured in pickle.

The subsection to be repealed and re-enacted reads as follows:—

"(1) This Act shall apply to pickled herring, alewives, mackerel and salmon, other than mild cured salmon, and the containers used or intended to be used for packing and marketing such fish."

2. Section 2 of the bill is intended to amend subsections 1 and 2 of section 8 of the Act.

Subsection 1 at present simply requires that containers used for packing fish be made and marked in accordance with the regulations. The amendment to this subsection will require inspecting officers to see that all containers are of the standard quality and size, and to officially stamp such as come up to the standard before sale or shipment. Boxes for smoked herring and dry salted herring are to be exempted from this requirement as these are usually put together by the packer just before packing, and can be inspected when filled.

Fish oils are not at present subject to the provisions of the Act. By an amendment to the Act, however, chapter 22 of the Statutes of 1930, first session, the Governor in Council has authority to at any time order any one or more of such provisions to apply to fish oils.

Subsection 2 at present requires only that fish be graded, packed and marked in accordance with the regulations. The proposed amendment is intended to require inspecting officers to see that all fish subject to this inspection are properly cured, graded and packed and to mark the containers of such as are found to be in accordance with the regulations with a suitably designed official stamp before sale or shipment.

The subsections to be repealed read as follows:—

"(1) All containers used for packing fish shall be made and marked in accordance with the regulations.

(2) All fish shall be graded, packed and marked in accordance with the regulations."