

Mr. SEXSMITH: They said a great deal about this in the newspapers last winter, and what I saw astonished me. A man would go down to the market square in Peterborough and say: I will give you \$10 for your load. When the load was delivered and it perhaps was not just a cord the purchaser commenced to kick. The law was not at fault, nor was the man who sold the wood? When I order a cord of wood I want to get 128 cubic feet and if I do not get it I should not be required to pay for it.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess.

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. CROWE: I am in favour of this clause, but I think that when legislation is being framed to meet the case of people buying cordwood, something should also be done with respect to those who buy wood by the load. I would suggest that the minister frame an amendment to the effect that when wood is sold by the load, there be marked on the bill which is given to the purchaser the amount of the contents of that load in cubic feet, or that the quantity should be marked on the outside of the wagon when the wood is delivered. The purchaser would then know exactly how much wood he was receiving.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There would be some difficulty in doing that I am afraid. However, I shall be very glad to take the suggestion into consideration, and the next time we proceed with the Bill see if we can arrange a clause that will meet the hon. gentleman's wishes. I move an amendment to section 359A, to add, after the word "contents," the words "of a cord or the requisite fraction thereof." This will bring the section into unison with the cord standard.

Mr. SEXSMITH: Why exempt the millmen who sell mill scrap, kindling, and so on? In my opinion, if there is any reason at all for complaint in this matter of wood, it is more about the way the millmen sell their scrap than about the method of the ordinary wood dealers. The millmen run around little loads of wood on wagons in villages, cities and towns, and charge so much for it. In such cases there is no thought of the quantity sold, and they charge practically any price for it that they can get. I think that is one of the main reasons for the kicking that has been done throughout the community.

Mr. GLASS: I think there should be a distinction between mill scrap and slabs that are sawn off in a sawing mill. The ordinary mill scrap, or kindling, which is generally used for lighting fires, is not a matter of very material importance, because it is sold at a very low figure any way. But in many mills in small towns where large timber is sawn, slabs are taken off the sides that are cut into ten and eighteen-inch wood and delivered for fuel, and the same regulations should apply to wood of this character as to ordinary cordwood. One great difficulty in forming an idea as to what the contents of a load should be is that often the load is thrown in loosely and without piling. If the woodman were required to pile his wood on the wagon, it would be a very easy matter to estimate, and estimate very closely, the actual cubic contents of the load, but where the load is thrown in roughly, without piling, it is a cause of deception to the purchaser and a very serious loss to poor people who have to buy their wood in that way.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The difficulty in making any standard for that kind of scrap, or of fuel, is this: The millmen sell the wood out as they can, and it is generally picked up by all kinds of small dealers who take it into their yards, and it goes through the summer process of being dried out to some extent, and afterwards sold to the consumer. There is no exact measurement; it is delivered in all kinds of packages. The difficulty is to get a standard which will suit every place without being burdensome to any; you cannot do it. However, I am going to see whether or not we can frame an amendment which will reach to some extent the difficulty which has been spoken of.

Mr. GLASS: There would not be so much difficulty in dealing with slabs from large logs.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There would be less difficulty than in the case of mill scrap and small chunks of wood, but, as my hon. friend sees, it is very difficult to fix a standard that could be applied all through the country.

Mr. SEXSMITH: My reason for mentioning the matter is, that there are hundreds of small portable mills operating throughout the country which cut thousands and thousands of cords of slabwood into two-foot or four-foot lengths, which wood is hauled into the villages and sold at so