

so that a person buying a tin of peas will not get half water. What protection would the printing of the net weight be on a tin of peas, when the tin that has the most water in it weighs the most? Take any tin of fruit: the department standard will provide that every tin of packed strawberries shall contain 12 ounces of strawberries, and in case a tin is found that does not contain the quantity, the packer is liable to severe punishment. Any tin of peas bought would have to contain so much weight in peas, not in water. That is the kind of thing that would protect the customer. That system is being prepared now, and is being adopted by the Canada Food Board.

You will notice a great number of exceptions in the Bill, which prove that it is not applicable in all cases. There are some things that I think are ridiculous in this Bill. For instance, it provides for a fine of \$1 a tin. A manufacturer whose total capital is \$25,000 puts up 2,000,000 tins, and is liable to a fine of a dollar a tin if he makes a mistake in putting this label on. However, that is only a minor matter.

I agree with the main features of this Bill, but I think it requires a great deal more consideration, and I believe in another year the Department of Agriculture will have standards fixed.

I may say this much for the present Bill, that it has brought the manufacturers to the idea that it is time to adopt standards. Many manufacturers have advocated standards for years, but others did not want them, because they were going a little under the other fellow, and were not willing to change. Now they are all united, because when they come to consider what a costly affair the marking of weights on packages would be, causing the manufactured goods to be dearer, they think that the adoption of standards would enable them to pack more cheaply. A man who has to operate twenty or thirty different sizes of goods in his factory must have a place to put twenty or thirty different sizes of cases, twenty or thirty different kinds of labels, bottles, tins, etc., so that a great number of varieties requires about twice the area in a building to accommodate them that would be required if the number of varieties were small.

I suggest that if this Bill were laid over for a year it would allow time for the Department of Agriculture to have adopted a large number of standards, and thus effect the object aimed at in marking the

Hon. Mr. SMITH.

weights on packages, but would do that in a really efficacious way, which would protect the consumer and enable the manufacturer to comply with the law without increasing his expense, but on the contrary reducing it.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Would you suggest a standard on all lines in Canada, and would you insist on goods now imported into Canada being brought to the standard that may be adopted?

Hon. Mr. SMITH: I think they should be included.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: If you insist that the goods in Canada should be 2-lb. or 4-lb. packages, the goods from other countries would be prohibited.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: In the United States, the standard sizes are those in common use there.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman has spoken of standard weights. That implies a change in very many lines. What time should be allowed to manufacturers to make the change from their present methods?

Hon. Mr. SMITH: My suggestion in that respect is that those who are not prepared to adopt the standards fixed should mark the weight on the package, as described in this Bill until such time as they adopt the standard, but that the time within which they must conform to the standards be limited to say one year or two years. Some may think this is going pretty far, but I do not think so. Take as an illustration the basket bill that we had up yesterday. These standards were fixed twenty years ago, when I had the honour of bringing that Bill into the House of Commons. At that time it was thought, just as some people think now, that it would be too drastic to say that no goods should be packed except in a certain size of basket; we therefore provided that persons should pack in any size of basket, provided they marked on the side of the basket the word "short," and also defined the contents. That drove everybody into using the standard size, and in a short time the fruit-growers, who had suggested the bill, demanded that two or three certain sizes be fixed by law, and that nobody be allowed to put fruit in any other size of basket. If that course were followed in this case, people would interest themselves, as they would in any other line; the simplicity and economy of