

We are criticizing Dr. Macphail's process from a very high standard, which we understood from him was what he wanted. An important difficulty connected with his process, which Dr. Macphail pointed out, was the sounding of the tins, which was very similar to the sound emanating from the tin when it is what is known, to the trade, as "doubtful," which means that it is expected, sooner or later, to become "blown" or "swelled," the latter being the American phrase for this condition, and it would probably take some time to remove this prejudice, if this system were adopted; but we are of opinion that it would ultimately be overcome, provided the new system of packing was regarded by the trade as being successful in other particulars.

We are glad to hear from Dr. Macphail that his principle includes an improvement in the grading of lobsters, which has been a great difficulty with distributors, and also must have been very detrimental to the general welfare to the trade, and we should be heartily glad to hear that he has been able to introduce a system which would enable us to depend on the regularity of the quality.

We are also glad to hear that the improved method would enable the trader to guarantee the lobsters to be sterilized and absolutely degerminated, which we think would provide distributors with a very strong argument for the purposes of pushing the trade and ought to result in an improvement in the consumption. We repeat that we pointed out to Dr. Macphail, that the consumers in this country wanted nothing better than what is packed at present by some of the best canners, and if he is successful in bringing the commoner quantities up to this standard, the result would undoubtedly be a perfect success.

The important points to be always borne in mind are, that the fish must be perfectly free from black smuts, that the liquid in the can should be as small a proportion as possible, that the meat should be as little broken as possible, and that the parcel should be graded uniformly.

We should be glad to know if we should be able to print on our labels that lobsters packed under this new system would be guaranteed by the Canadian Government to be absolutely free from all obnoxious germs or poisonous matter of any kind, and we think if the system were advertised as a new one backed up with this guarantee, it would remove a great deal of the prejudice which has been brought about through lobsters of indifferent qualities, and also improperly processed having been sold.

We shall be glad to hear of Dr. Macphail's success, and we are quite willing to support any new idea, which is in the nature of a permanent improvement.

We are, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

For J. TRAVERS & SONS, LTD.
E. Bowox.

AUSTIN, NICHOLS & Co.

NEW YORK, December 14, 1896.

The Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Dominion of Canada.

DEAR SIR,—At the request of Dr. Macphail we examined a sample of lobster canned by him experimentally to show the quality of fish which can be produced under a special process on which he has been experimenting.

We take pleasure in stating that we consider this finer in quality, the fish being firmer, of a better colour and more desirable than the average quality of canned lobster that we receive from the Dominion. Lobster, if canned equal to this sample, would command a higher price in our market, than such goods as we have been receiving from the Dominion for the past few years.

Respectfully yours,

AUSTIN, NICHOLS & CO.