

the consumer who pays for an imitation of syrup or sugar or for a compound the same price he would pay for the pure article?

Looking at it from another viewpoint, the diffusion of the adulterated articles on the market prevents honest producers from obtaining a fair price for their goods.

The Quebec government, out of the Dominion grant, is helping technical education and will open three practical schools for demonstrating the modern methods of manufacturing maple sugar and maple syrup. A society, with a membership of many hundreds of producers, has been organized in the province of Quebec, and others will soon be formed, to secure better protection for the maple industry and to promote it among our farmers.

I am not opposed to people making a practice of mixing with our maple syrup or sugar other uninjurious substances to make a compound article; it is their right, as it is also the consumer's own business if he cares to buy an adulterated or compound article. But then let those impure products be sold under some designation; let them be labelled "the syrup of Mr. So and So," or distinguished by any other name which may be suitable and appropriate; but let it be declared illegal and liable to severe penalties to couple with these other names the word "maple".

I therefore suggest to the minister and I do move, with his leave, that the following words be omitted from subsection 1 of section 29:

—unless the said article or the package containing the said article is labelled with the words "imitation of maple sugar" or "imitation maple syrup" or "compound maple sugar" or "compound maple syrup," as the case may be, in a conspicuous place upon the said article or upon the said package and in large letters easily seen of a different colour from the label or other letters which appear on the label; the said letters to be at least one-quarter of an inch in height, printed on the same line and entirely separate from all other inscription on the label.

And then I will, on behalf of the Co-operative Society of Producers of Maple Syrup and Sugar, give my assent to the Bill.

At one o'clock, the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. BLONDIN: Before recess we had an interesting discussion about the Bill. I have prepared amendments which, I hope, will meet the wishes of all parties. The effect of these amendments will be to leave the law as it was before, not permitting

[Mr. Boyer.]

any compound or adulterated maple products to be put on the market. The Bill, then, will only make slight changes in the wording of the law so as to make it enforceable. Section 1 of the Bill amends section 29 of the present law. In the proposed amendment of subsection 1, I would strike out all the words except those prohibiting the manufacture, keeping, offering for sale, or the sale of imitation or compound maple sugar or maple syrup. Subsection 2 defining adulterated maple sugar or maple syrup will stand. In subsection 3, restricting the use of the word "maple" to pure maple sugar or syrup, the words "except as herein otherwise provided" will be dropped. Subsection 3 amends the existing law, in which the words "which is or," in combination with the rest of the subsection, have the effect of prohibiting the use of the word "maple," even on the pure maple sugar or syrup itself.

Mr. DEMERS (Translation): Mr. Chairman, in order to carry out the purpose of this Bill which is to make sure that the consumer will get an absolutely pure article, subsection 3 of section 29a should also be amended by omitting in lines 6 and 7, page 2 of the Bill, the word "pure." As subsection 3 now reads, it would appear that an article which is not pure might be labelled "maple sugar" or "maple syrup" provided the word "pure" be not used. I think the word "pure" should be omitted out of both lines.

Mr. BLONDIN (Translation): Am I to understand that my hon. friend suggests that the section should be read with the words "pure maple", omitted?

Mr. DEMERS (Translation): No, simply with the word "pure" omitted. So, I move that subsection 3 be amended by omitting the word "pure" in lines 6 and 7, so that the end of this subsection may read as follows:

As is likely to make persons believe it is maple sugar or maple syrup.

If we adopted the Bill as it now reads, a manufacturer or other person who would label his articles simply "maple sugar" or "maple syrup" could not be prosecuted because he would have labelled it "pure maple".

Mr. BLONDIN (Translation): The purpose of the section is to prevent the use of the word "maple" on syrup compounds as, for instance, "mapling." So this part of the section reads as follows: