

Supply—Agriculture

my hon. friend believes that does not make any difference, all I can say is it costs 2 or 3 cents a dozen to move them.

Mr. Argue: Why are they so low at Brandon, then?

Mr. Gardiner: Brandon is where you sell your eggs.

Mr. Argue: Not at all.

Mr. Gardiner: Your constituency does.

Mr. Green: May I bring the minister back to potatoes for a moment. A day or two ago I had a letter from a friend on the west coast with which he enclosed the bottom of a bag in which potatoes were sold. Apparently his wife had gone to a store there and asked for Canadian potatoes. She was shown this bag and the words "Canada No. 1" were pointed out to her and also the words "Packed by Terminal Fruit and Produce Limited, Vancouver, B.C." When she got home she saw that on the other side just to the right were these words, "Produce of U.S.A." Apparently the potatoes were not of the quality of Canada No. 1.

Is it a fact that United States potatoes can be brought in, given the benefit of this national trade-mark, Canada No. 1, and sold to the Canadian public under those conditions? If the regulations permit that sort of transaction I suggest to the minister that some steps should be taken to change them, because it certainly is no help to our own potato producers or to Canadian consumers to be placed in a position where they can be deceived in that way.

Mr. Gardiner: Of course I am not familiar with just what has happened in connection with potatoes, but in reporting the other day regarding the so-called colouring of potatoes to make them look as though they are new the information came to me that in connection with all our regulations, products can be packed in other countries from which the product comes but they must be packed up to standards, and some official in that area must make a report to us that that is the case. The same is true when we ship anything in the opposite direction. We do not ship it in a manner which makes it necessary for somebody to unpack it and repack it, because that takes away some of the profit of the producer or adds to the cost to the consumer. Therefore we do accept one another's passing of these things.

I should like to have the facts in connection with the matter so I can have it looked into, but I would be surprised if we did not find that these potatoes passed through an inspection system of that kind between the two countries.

Mr. Green: On the back there are the words "Packed by Terminal Fruit and Produce Limited, Vancouver, B.C.", and also the words "Canada No. 1". It seems to me that the use of this brand, "Canada No. 1", is what is wrong.

These are United States potatoes and it should not be possible, under the regulations, to have them sold under the national trade mark. Is that contrary to the regulations, or do the regulations permit that sort of transaction?

Mr. Gardiner: I would think they did not. If it said, "Equal to Canada No. 1", I think it would be all right, because as long as they are graded they would be equal. Any product that comes in here is graded up to our grades and sold under our regulations, and that is acceptable. However, to say they are Canada No. 1 if they are grown somewhere else I do not think is proper.

Mr. Hodgson: I should like to get back to this question of eggs, because my name was brought into the debate during the last few minutes. I want to refer to egg prices in my part of the country and also in Toronto. I have slips since early in February and right through for every month showing egg prices running from 26 cents to 28 cents per dozen for grade A large. I checked the retail prices, and I sent the slips over to the minister for four or five days. On those days neither the minister nor his parliamentary assistant was here, but the acting minister accepted them. None of the slips showed prices over 28 cents, and they were priced from there down according to grade.

This went on for some time, and if you look at *Hansard* you will see where I asked questions about the situation. Then the minister would get up and quote prices at Toronto for that day, but he was quoting retail prices. After all, I checked on the prices, and never once from February 5 until early in March were eggs selling for less than 40 cents a dozen retail in any of the places from which I sent the slips.

There is something wrong with an act when it permits such a situation. This is the objection I have to it. If we are going to buy eggs from the producer cheaply, then they should be sold to the consumer cheaply. Otherwise some teeth should be put into this act to prevent such a situation.

Mr. Gardiner: I agree with my hon. friend, but may I tell him this. Those eggs about which he was speaking were sold at those prices by farmers to the persons who were collecting eggs and taking them into Lindsay. I can give my hon. friend the name of the company that gathered them. They were