

*Meat and Canned Foods*

Mr. MEIGHEN: The House and the committee will note that, though the minister rose to explain the effect of the amendments, that is the one thing he left out. He said these were suggested by the officers of the department and were accepted.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I have asked my hon. friend to wait.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the explanation should be given now. I know that a bill will be introduced, but we miss the entire effect of it if we simply say: "Let the resolution go, and never mind what it means, do not bother about its effect, we will have a discussion on the bill." I can recall the time when an hon. member asked "What is the use of passing the resolution?" the answer by the minister was, "Oh, that is called for by the rules." Certainly it is, and there is a reason for the rule. Why should we not have a very brief explanation, which will enable us to prepare for the discussion of the bill?

Mr. LAPOINTE: On what section does the hon. member want an explanation?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I mentioned the reference to clause 9, but I think the minister should give us a brief synopsis of the effect of the changes. Then we can refer to Hansard, and prepare for discussion on the bill.

Mr. LAPOINTE: As my hon. friend insists on having the character and meaning of every change given, I will deal with every one of them.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The meaning chiefly.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The first change relates to the term "fish". The term "fish" as used in the act does not include shellfish; and as the latter was omitted from paragraph (b) it is now inserted. The amendment to paragraph (e) simply provides that when the term "inspecting officer" are used they will mean an inspector appointed under the act.

Mr. DUFF: Still more important.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The amendment to paragraph "1" is intended to define more clearly the words "canned goods" to which the act applies. As to paragraph "j", I will read the change—

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no paragraph "j", "1", or anything else here.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I am going to read the clauses of the bill itself.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: We have not the bill.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is why I asked that the discussion should be postponed until the bill was in the hands of members of the committee. The resolution is simply a resumé—

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the minister's headings are in the same order as the clauses of the resolution—

Mr. LAPOINTE: But they are not. The sections of the bill are not the same.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I suggest that the minister go on, and I can compare the changes after they are placed on Hansard.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is a complicated matter to some extent. I have the old bill, and I have the new bill, and, for each one of the amendments I have to refer to three or four papers and that is why I take the present bill—

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the minister's remarks apply to the bill, I can compare it after I see Hansard.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Paragraph "j" section I of the bill was intended to make clearer what was meant by "dry lobster meat". There was already a definition, and some words are added to it. It was also to give some latitude in the length of time for draining the liquid from a can before the meat is weighed. The time is at present fixed as one minute, neither more nor less. By the new bill we extend it to one minute and a half.

Section 2. At present under subsection 1 of section 12 A, canned fish and shellfish are subject to inspection during the course of preparation and packing only. The amendment provides that such fish and shellfish may be inspected at the cannery any time after they have been packed or at the first purchaser's warehouse, if he so desires. It is also proposed to substitute the word "labelled" for "marked," as being more in line with the intention of the section. The word "fish" in paragraph (a) is the result of a mistake. It is, therefore, being replaced by the word "first" as originally intended—the "first" dealer instead of the "fish" dealer.

Subsection 4 of section 12 A provides for the exemption from the labelling requirements of canned fish and shellfish exported to foreign markets or the markets of the United Kingdom. That is the law as it was. This does not include Australia and New Zealand; it says only foreign mar-