

Columbia and in the east. The present amendment is simply carrying this idea a little further. I have not been able to make the comparison for myself, but I know, as my hon. friend has pointed out, that the departure came from the necessity of conforming with what had become the established methods of doing business both in lobster and salmon canning.

Hon. Mr. POWER—What happened in connection with this matter is this: I quite concur in the views expressed by the leader of the opposition. There was an inspection law which provided for an inspector going down to the cannery where lobsters, for instance, were being canned, and the law was that a stamp had to be put on the outside of the package. The package spoken of was a wooden box containing one or two or four dozen cans, and I remember saying myself that no stamp put on the outside of the package was any guarantee to the purchaser, of the quality of the goods, and years and years ago I said I thought the best guarantee of the quality of the goods was the name of the packer who put them up. And I am still of that opinion. Now, the amendment before us provides that in certain cases the name of the dealer shall be substituted for that of the packer.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That may be.

Hon. Mr. POWER—And the amendment before us goes on :

And such dealer shall, at the request of an inspector appointed under this Act, disclose the name of the packer of each article.

That proviso, to a certain extent, diminishes the objection to the change, but does not remove it altogether. The object is to provide that none but good articles shall be put up, and the strongest instrument to bring about that result is to compel the packer to put his name and address on the can. It is, no doubt, true, as the hon. gentleman from Marshfield says, that the practice in the lobster trade in the lower provinces has been to put the large dealer's name on and not the packer's; but, after all, we are not so much concerned with the interests of the large dealers as we are with the interests of the public who consume the goods, and I know that the head of a large concern in New Brunswick

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON.

told me, speaking about this very matter, that they got lobsters from all over Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and they put their own labels on the cans. I know some of the packers from whom they bought did not put up a good article, and this matter of allowing the wholesale dealer to put his label on, simply renders it possible to put inferior goods upon the market. I do not see any reason why a large dealer should not put this label on as well as the label of the packer. The difficulty can be overcome by putting on the label that the goods are packed by So-and-So, giving the packer's name, for So-and-So, giving the name of the dealer, and I for one would be disposed to vote against the amendment. I think it is a step in the wrong direction.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I cannot follow the argument that there would be any harm done by the amendment to the Bill. It seems to me that the wholesaler who would buy these goods from the packer is as reliable a man as the packer himself, and very often more so. In the salmon trade, in British Columbia, the wholesalers send their labels down to the canner, and having arranged for so many cans of salmon, they have their labels put on the tins, and they are sent out as if they were packed by the wholesale dealer. I do not see where the public are going to be injured by having to look to the wholesale dealer instead of to the packer for a good article. The wholesale dealer is often a very much better known man than the packer, and if the goods he is putting on the market are not good goods, the public find out where they got them from, and, on applying to the department, the inspector can find out the name of the packer, and in that way the matter can be put right. No dealer is going to put bad goods on the market, because he must know he is going to spoil his trade. In the long run, the people will find out which dealers are furnishing the good article.

Hon. Mr. BAIRD—I think it is important that the name of the packer should be put upon the can in a conspicuous place, because it is quite evident that the man who is buying canned goods or spices of every kind, is not buying them every