

Mr. MARSHALL. I might put the case a little more clearly. We sell goods before they are packed. We take the orders before the goods are put up. We sell certain brands. If our pack is short we are not able to fill the orders, but it may be that they will not take any other brand but the Aylmer brand. For instance, if we can buy Belleville goods and we offer to supply Belleville goods, but the buyer says: No, I want Aylmer goods and I must have them if we can buy goods outside. Then we put an Aylmer label or any label that is sold on these goods. We buy from small factories early in the season and we buy goods again when we cannot fill our orders or when our pack is short. We sell a lot of pineapple in this market, although we do not pack a tin. We bring it over and use our own label.

Mr. FISHER. Bring it from where?

Mr. MARSHALL. We buy it unlabelled and bring it into this country and label it.

Mr. FISHER. From the United States?

Mr. MARSHALL. Yes.

Mr. FISHER. I do not think that would come under this Bill at all.

Mr. MARSHALL. I understand from the minister now that we can buy goods and use our own labels on them?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, I think we can put an interpretation on this clause in the regulations which will cover the point raised by the hon. gentleman and by the hon. member for Northumberland.

Mr. BARR. I can scarcely see how you can accomplish that. These goods are put up in the United States and when they come over here how can you inspect them after they have been put up?

Mr. FISHER. My hon. friend (Mr. Barr) misunderstood me. I said that we could not apply the Act to goods put up out of the country.

Mr. BARR. Unless the goods are canned in the country they certainly could not be inspected.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. Mr. Chairman, the custom of the trade in regard to the packing of lobsters provides a pretty good inspection at the present time. The large canners, of course, have their reputation to maintain and they have to see to it that the canning is done in a proper way for their own sakes. The smaller canners invariably sell to the larger ones and the large canners will not buy from the small canners that they do not know are putting up a good article. The agents very frequently visit the canneries and in addition, when the goods are canned, they go over the pack and pick out the cans here and there and have a still further inspection.

Mr. FISHER.

Anything that is wrong or off colour, or that does not come up to the standard, is rejected and in that way the smaller canners cannot pass off inferior goods. The inspection at the present time in so far as the lobster business is concerned is pretty thoroughly carried out by the canners themselves.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. They are obliged to do it because they sell in advance of the pack.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. As a rule.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These exporters sell very often in advance of the pack and they must have a careful contract drawn up with those who pack for them describing the goods and the way they shall be packed.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. As a rule they sell in advance of the pack although not always, but even when they are not selling in advance of the pack they must have an inspection because their own reputations are at stake.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I would like to have an explanation from the hon. minister as to how he intends to carry on this inspection. As I understand the clause that is now proposed it provides that all articles prepared for food in any way whatever and packed in cans shall be subject to inspection during the whole course of preparation and packing. I also heard the hon. minister state that it was not intended that the inspector should be at each cannery during the process of packing, and I have not been able to understand how every package can be subject to inspection during the whole process unless there is some one there to inspect it. I would like some explanation as to how this is to be done.

Mr. FISHER. The intention of the clause—I am sorry my hon. friend was not here when it was explained—in regard to the packing of meat products is that there shall be an inspector present and that he shall inspect the whole process and the materials used in that process. In regard to fish, fruit and vegetables that is not intended, but at the same time such factories and all their contents and products shall be open to inspection whenever the inspector may visit them and in that sense are subject to inspection. The inspection as it is proposed will not be continuous or complete, but at the same time there will be an occasional inspection of all such factories and the contents at the time of the inspection.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am not sure whether I exactly understand it. Is there to be a distinction in the inspection between factories in which meat preparations are packed and factories in which lobsters and fish are packed?