

Chinese Immigration

the package must be marked with the name of the province and country where the seed was grown.

Section agreed to.

On section 15—Time limit complaint may be made against person from whom seed purchased:

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is to give a longer time for prosecution, and there is also a provision under which a purchaser in good faith shall not be liable to prosecution.

Section agreed to.

On section 16—Official samples to be taken in presence of witness:

Mr. MacKELVIE: What process will be necessary to satisfy the terms of this provision?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Simply as outlined, in the presence of a witness, so that it may be certain that the sample was taken correctly, and that the sample is what it purports to be.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Argenteuil, Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization) moved the second reading of Bill No. 15, respecting Chinese Immigration.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

On section 2—Definitions:

Mr. McQUARRIE: Will the minister make a statement as to how this bill will affect the entry of Chinese into the country?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member might wait until section 5, "Entry and landing", is called.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—Powers of Governor in Council:

Mr. STEVENS: There is one question I want the minister fully to elucidate and that is in reference to subsection (b) of section 3 which gives power to the Governor in Council to appoint officers in countries other than Canada for the purposes of endorsing passports or performing other duties under the act. I wish the minister would explain as fully as he can that subsection, having in

[Mr. Motherwell.]

mind the experience of the department during recent years, particularly I believe in 1920 and 1921, when the British Consul viséed the passports of intending immigrants with the result that there was at that time an increased influx of merchants from China.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am not very clear as to how that occurred, but it would appear that approximately 1,200 Chinese registered as merchants in the year 1920-21. I have a record taken from the reports of the department with regard to this matter, but I may say that our intention is that the officer in China shall be responsible for the carrying out of the provisions of the act; that is to say, before a national of China can leave the country of origin, he will have to have his passport viséed by our officer. That practice obtains to a certain extent now; the passport is viséed by the British consul. But we believe that the British consul's duties are too numerous to allow him to devote the same attention to this matter as could be given by a Canadian officer stationed in China for the particular purpose, and there would be greater probability of the law being rigidly enforced by the appointment of a Canadian officer than would otherwise be the case. That is all we have in mind in connection with the appointment of an officer in China. When the bill was drawn up I assumed that the appointments and the fixing of salaries would come under the Civil Service Commission; and that is as I desire, with the single exception of the chief controller. I propose to amend subsection (a) of section 3 by striking it out and substituting the following:

Appoint any official of the Department of Immigration and Colonization to be chief controller.

That is the only reservation in the bill in regard to which I desire to have control, because this official is more or less in the position of a deputy minister. He will be selected from the Department of Immigration, so that we are not going outside the service that exists to fill the position.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the officers in other countries be appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes. I move that the subsection be amended as I have proposed.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS: Before we leave this section I want to make this observation. I am very sceptical of the success that will attend the appointment of this officer, and I do not