

Mr. CROTHERS: There was no serious objection by any of the manufacturers except that the company which my hon. friend mentions and one in Nova Scotia desired that they should not be compelled to cease manufacturing until the 1st of January, 1916. The original Bill so provided, but it was amended in the Senate so as to restrict the manufacture to the 1st of January, 1915. I have no doubt that the manufacturers that my hon. friend refers to did object to the provisions in the Act requiring them to cease manufacturing so early. They thought they ought to have had another year. But, I understand that they all ceased to manufacture on the 1st of January, 1915.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I do not think that the minister quite understands the criticism that I made of the Bill. Would the minister kindly explain why it is provided that the Act shall come into force on the 1st of January, 1915, excepting section 5, while, by section 2, it is provided that "the provisions of this Act shall be held to have come into force on, from and after, the first day of January, 1916." There is a difference of a year in time when, by this Bill, the Act is declared to come into force. Would the minister kindly explain that?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: As far as I can understand it, the last section fixes the date at which the amendment shall take effect. The first section contains an amendment to the original Act; the second says that the amendment shall take effect on a certain date.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes, but it provides that this Bill shall only become effective from the first of January, 1915. Then, there is another section which says that this Act is not to come into force until this year or that it should not have been in force a year ago.

Mr. CROTHERS: No, 1916. The Act referred to in section 2 is this present Act.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Quite so.

Mr. CROTHERS: The original Act. The idea was to prevent any prosecutions for any violation of the Act from and after the first day of this year. Otherwise, any one making, using, or selling these matches up to that time would be liable to prosecution. The Act is retroactive as to that. Any violation of the original Act, either by the sale or the use of these matches, to the first of January of this year, will not be an offence, because it will be covered by this amending Act.

[Mr. Pugsley]

Mr. PUGSLEY: Does not the minister see that this section declares that this amending Act shall not come into force until the first day of January, 1916, and another section declares that the Act shall come into force on the first day of January, 1915. It does not say that it shall be deemed to have come into force, but that it shall come into force. Otherwise, Parliament, speaking from the first of January, 1916, declares that, as to section 1, the Act shall come into force a year previous to this amending Act having become law.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It sounds confusing, but I do not think it is. I think the real change in the Act is in the addition of the proviso. There is no change made in the Act in so far as manufacture is concerned. There is the right to manufacture until the first of January, 1915; but section 13, in so far as it differs from the original section, extends the right until the first of January, 1916, in order to cover the period between that date and the date when this Act shall receive the Royal Assent.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But how could the amended section be deemed to have been in force a year ago?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Not a year ago.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes, on the first of January, 1915. How could it be deemed to have been in force a year ago when this Act, so declared to be in force, does not become operative until January of this year?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Because there is no change made in that respect from the original section.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Oh, yes.

Mr. CROTHERS: The first part of section 13 which is amended is in these words:

This Act shall come into force on the first day of January, 1915, except section 5 thereof.

Section 5 is the one that deals with the sale and use. Then it goes on and states in substance that, as to sale, the time shall be extended to the first of July, 1916, and, as to use, it shall be extended to the first of January, 1917.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But you are repealing that section. This is a new law, and you are providing that this new law shall not be operative until after the first day of January, 1916. Would it not be better to have it declared that the provisions of section 13 shall be retroactive and be deemed to have