

that I am summarizing the provisions of the British Act, paraphrasing, not quoting, the sections.

This inquiry must be held in accordance with certain rules which have been made by the minister and approved by both houses of parliament.

If the report following the inquiry should lead the minister to make modifications in the scheme these modifications shall be submitted for the approval of from nine to twenty-one persons nominated by the persons submitting the scheme.

If the minister is now satisfied that the scheme will "conduce to the work of efficient production and marketing of the regulated product" he shall "lay before each house of parliament a draft of the scheme," and if each house approves the minister shall make an order approving the scheme. But it is to be noted that when the minister lays the scheme before the houses of parliament for their consideration he must lay before each house a report as to the evidence by which he has been satisfied that the persons submitting the scheme were duly representative of the producers.

Both houses of parliament having approved the scheme the minister shall make an order approving it. The operation of the scheme shall be suspended during what is known as a "suspensory period," beginning when the scheme is approved and ending not less than one month nor more than two months after the poll has been taken.

The minister on laying before the houses of parliament a draft of the scheme—I have outlined this provision already but I will repeat it—must lay before each a report "as to the evidence by which he has been satisfied that the persons submitting the scheme were duly representative." The scheme shall provide for the constitution of a board to administer this scheme, which board shall be composed of registered producers elected by them in such manner as may be provided in the scheme. All this having been done, the minister now shall cause to be published in such newspapers, published in the area in which the scheme is applicable, as the minister may direct, a form of application for registration as a producer under the scheme. It may be pointed out here that any producer who is not registered is prohibited from selling his product. This form of application shall state that a poll of registered producers is to be taken on the question whether the scheme shall remain in force, and specifying the date. A poll of registered producers is then held and the scheme shall come into force at the expiration of the suspensory

period if the poll shows that there have voted in favour of the scheme, first, not less than two-thirds of the total number of registered producers voting on the poll and, second, registered producers who are capable of producing not less than two-thirds of the regulated product which all the registered producers voting on the poll are capable of producing. It is also provided that if it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the minister that the number of producers voting on the poll was less than half the total number of producers, he shall forthwith by order revoke the scheme. It will be seen that this act provides that a small minority of producers cannot act against the will of the majority. The safeguards are quite ample in that respect.

There are certain safeguarding provisions from the consumer's standpoint. While our bill contains certain provisions for the protection of the consumer, I think the British act is much better with respect to price spreads. A chairman and six members to represent the interests of the consumers shall be appointed by the minister and shall be called a consumers' committee. They shall be charged with the duty of considering and reporting to the minister on, first, the effect of any scheme on consumers of the regulated product and, second, any complaints made to the committee as to the effect of any such scheme on consumers of the regulated product. Another committee is to be appointed, an investigating committee. The minister shall appoint a committee of investigation, consisting of a chairman and four members, to consider and report to the minister on any report made by a consumers' committee. If a committee of investigation reports to the minister that any provision of a scheme or any act or omission of a board is contrary to the interests of consumers of a regulated product, or contrary to the interests of the public, the minister may, after consultation with the board of trade, first, by order make such amendments as he considers necessary or expedient or, second, revoke the scheme. This cannot be done unless and until it has been approved by a resolution passed by each house of parliament.

I consider that to be a really democratic bill. It provides that at least two-thirds of the producers must be in favour of a marketing scheme before it can be brought into force. I believe that the majority should rule and I should be content if this bill contained similar safeguards. Even if that were done, I still believe that within a few years the producers themselves will regret the