

Explosives Act

bill we were not going to be able to see the regulations until the legislation was passed. In other words we were going to have to act blindly, just like a lot of half-informed children, in passing that legislation.

What the hon. member has said is only too true. We have to be sensible about this. We realize there must be some flexibility, but the great danger of legislation of this kind is that we are to have a general section in the act and then everything else goes into the regulations.

Mr. Adamson: There is a question or two I should like to ask concerning authorized explosives. First of all I should like to have some information as to the regulations governing fireworks. What is the maximum charge limit, in ounces, in fireworks? What are the limitations in connection with the composition of the explosive? What is the maximum amount of fireworks that may be transported at a time?

I mention these things because the Hand Fireworks Company is near where I live. Unfortunately there have been one or two accidents at the fireworks plant, and there have been other accidents in connection with the sale of fireworks. I believe in some of the American states fireworks are almost prohibited. I should like to know what the regulations are, and if they have been amended. Have any additional restrictions been put in force recently?

Mr. Prudham: The regulations governing fireworks will be found in part II, regulations 200 and 201. I do not think there can be any hard and fast rule, any blanket ruling covering fireworks. I was out to the new explosives laboratory near Uplands airport recently when they were testing explosives that had been sent in from Japan to see if they were safe and under what conditions they would be safe. The department decides under what conditions and in what quantities these explosives can be shipped or stored or used.

Mr. Adamson: Is there any place where the general public can see these regulations? They are being amended and changed all the time, and some consideration should be given to this phase of the matter. Any hardware store or any other store selling fireworks should have them available.

Mr. Prudham: Any explosives or fireworks manufactured by Canadian manufacturers are closely classified, and anything that is imported is also classified after testing at our laboratory. The hon. member has asked how the public would know there is a list of authorized explosives, including fireworks,

[Mr. Macdonnell.]

issued by the department. Such a list is available to merchants and any member of the public who is interested.

Mr. Adamson: I want to ask a question about dynamite, and the storage and disposal of old explosives. Has the maximum period of storage in regard to explosives been shortened? I mention this because of a recent strike at the Hollinger gold mine, not the most recent one but one prior to that. There was a considerable amount of dynamite underground when the men went on strike, and there was some question of disposal. Special volunteers had to go underground to move the explosives because they had been stored there. Under such conditions nitroglycerin tends to concentrate, being the heaviest part of the dynamite.

Mr. Prudham: Mr. Chairman, conditions such as the hon. member has mentioned come under provincial regulations.

Mr. Adamson: I know there is a provincial mines act which takes care of that sort of thing, but under this act is the storage of dynamite or other explosives in mines considered at all?

Mr. Prudham: Mr. Chairman, this department does not regulate the storage of explosives in mines. That comes under provincial regulations. We have authority under this act to destroy explosives which have deteriorated and are unsafe, and where they constitute a danger to the public safety. I believe that in Ontario the provincial regulations are very well administered, and they are quite adequate as regards public safety; but if we have reason to doubt that we can apply the regulations under this act.

Mr. Adamson: Then this act is ultra vires of the provincial mines acts? Surely a federal government statute dealing with explosives should also deal with the major use of explosives in Canada, namely in the mining industry. It seems to me that if this act does not deal with the storage and use of explosives in mines it is rather lacking in some respects.

Mr. Prudham: Mr. Chairman, to answer my hon. friend's question more specifically I would refer him to page 2 of the regulations, chapter 7, section 2, subsection (h), paragraph (i) which reads as follows:

(h) "magazine" means any building, storehouse, structure or place in which any explosive is kept or stored, but does not include

(i) a place at or in and for the use of a mine or quarry in a province in which provision is made by the law of such province for the efficient inspection of mines and quarries and explosives used in connection therewith . . .