

*Standards Council of Canada*

but have to have a special transformer attached to them because they cannot take normal power fluctuation.

It seems to me that we are not all that smart in this respect, and the minister who is responsible for trade must realize that the area of his responsibility is much larger than just to protect an association. Let me tell the House that this is a very powerful association if it can raise privately four and a half million dollars a year. This indicates that they must be very effective with the people to whom they talk, but since they could only receive 1 per cent from the government, they are not very effective with the government. This shows a great degree of self-interest and a smaller concern for the consumers, for trade interests or even for safety interests in many cases.

The association sets out in its letter how much money they raised and how much the government was providing. They consider it in a different light than I do. I do not think it is unfair to say that some self-interest must be served in this field. As a matter of fact, I imagine there is a total monopolistic interest in this field. Certainly, this is the case with gas underwriters. I have seen many appliances bearing the laboratory underwriters's stamp, and I would think this is a good standard. I have seen Good Housekeeping's Seal of Approval on many appliances also. If I saw that on an electric iron I would think it was worth buying, not because of standards set by any government agency but because use of the Good Housekeeping Seal has been restricted, and any article which bears it is usually satisfactory. That has been my experience.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Another seal of approval is that of the Canada Standards Association, but this only means that it is legal for me to use the article bearing it. I have bought equipment with that seal, and without it. I have not considered that seal as any great stamp of approval, except that it is the legal stamp of approval needed in the province of Ontario, and thus is absolutely necessary in that province.

As the minister said, he is backed by a large number of people in his department who are very competent in their various fields. I suggest that their's is a fairly new competence. I am impressed with the interest which Canada is showing in developing trade, mainly through co-operation between international agencies. It is no longer a question of,

[Mr. Peters.]

"We have it; if you want to come and buy it, do so. If you have it and if you want to send somebody to us to demonstrate it, then maybe we will buy it." Now, there is co-operation. Trade seems to be on a fairly formal basis, and not only the present minister but several previous occupants of that post have made fairly good showings, both throughout the country and in this House. The reason for that is the expertise which is behind them.

Experts have pointed out that a number of changes must take place in Canada if we are to expand our trade. One of the changes I wish to talk about is the adoption of the metric system. I have introduced a bill dealing with this subject on a number of different occasions. Now, on looking over it again, I do not know where I stole it originally, or where it came from, because certainly it is pretty complicated. I do not think I knew that much about the subject. I really do not know how I developed such a comprehensive bill, but I would ask the minister to have a look at Bill C-42, and it might explain some of the support that I have been receiving on this subject.

Some of this support comes from people in the educational field. The annual general meeting of the Canadian Teacher's Federation in 1962 passed a resolution which read:

Whereas countries containing 78 per cent of the world's population either are using the metric system of measurements or are in the process of adopting it; and

Whereas 57 per cent of world trade is carried on in metric units; and

Whereas the metric system is much simpler and more systematic than the English system; and

Whereas the metric system is already being used in Canada to some degree;

Be it resolved that the Manitoba Teachers' Society adopt a policy of favouring a complete change in Canada to the metric system of measurements; and

Be it further resolved that the Manitoba Teachers' Society recommend to the Canadian Teachers' Federation that it, too, adopt a policy of favouring a complete change to the metric system.

A report on the metric system by Dr. J. T. Henderson of Ottawa was presented to the Canadian Conference on Education in January, 1962, in which he stated his firm belief that the change to the metric system would cut a whole year from the present 12 year elementary and secondary education course and thus enable young people to become members of the labour force one year earlier. That is an interesting conclusion.

Most of the world is interested in doing business according to the metric standard.