

*Dairy Industry Act*

Mr. BENNETT: I indicated last evening that we were proceeding with the marketing bill, and with certain bills on the order paper of which I gave the numbers. We are proceeding with this first; that is all.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—definitions.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Would the minister explain the purpose in the change in this part of the act, with particular reference to the definition of "fat" which is now to include fats of mineral origin. An explanation of the whole clause I think would be in order.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The definitions are being extended so as to be more in line with the requirements of modern practice. The definition of "fat" is amended to include mineral fats as well as animal and vegetable fats because there has been an effort to use mineral fat in producing an article that is being used as a substitute for butter.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is the article?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have not the name with me but as certain attempts have been made in that direction it was thought advisable to amend this definition as a protection to the consuming public, so that they would get what they thought they were getting when making a purchase.

Mr. NEILL: Does not the act dealing with oleomargarine already prohibit such a thing?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No, margarine is not a mineral fat.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Would not the Pure Food and Drugs Act take care of such a product? The minister's explanation of the matter is not at all clear.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It is not covered by the Pure Food and Drugs Act because mineral oil is used for medicinal purposes and there is nothing injurious in its use for that purpose. The object of amending this definition is simply to prevent the substitution of mineral oil in products that would come into competition with butter.

Mr. MITCHELL: Do I understand from the minister's remarks that the department knows of cases where mineral oil has been used as a substitute in the making of butter?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes, that is correct.

Mr. DUPUIS: Is that allowed?

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): This is to prevent it.

Mr. MITCHELL: If mineral oil has been used as a substitute in the making of butter, what action has been taken by the department in such cases?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It was not used in the making of butter but in substitutes for butter or in products that resembled butter and were intended to be used in place of it.

Mr. MITCHELL: I remember the fight over oleomargarine some years ago, and I am curious to know what these products are.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): My information is that such a product is being manufactured in the United States, and they desire to bring it into this country. We do not think it should be brought in, and if we decide that it shall not be brought in and sold as butter, this section will enable us to prevent that being done.

Mr. MITCHELL: I would like to know what the product is called. I have very strong opinions about this thing.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): We have not got the name of the product, but one of the advantages claimed and advertised for it is that it makes what is eaten more palatable and will prevent the consumers from becoming what they would consider too stout.

Mr. MITCHELL: What I want to get clear in my mind is this: If this article is imported into this country and sold as butter, will prosecutions take place under this section?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It would be possible under this bill to make prosecutions if thought desirable.

Mr. MITCHELL: Then it is the intention of the government to prevent the sale of this substitute for butter?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Its sale as butter, yes.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It may be sold if it is not offered as butter, is that it?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes, that is my understanding. The definition as it stands at present requires that there must be a specified amount of fat in a product sold as butter. Under the present act, the definition of "fat" would not exclude mineral oil. It is for this reason that the change is made.