

of this government should attempt to disguise, under a bill bearing the title I have read, the joker we find among these sections.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. King: I do not deny that the bill includes amendments to the Dairy Industry Act which may be both important and useful. But these are not the object of the bill. The purpose of the bill is to give to a group of men who are entrusted with executive administration the power to regulate trade between the provinces. Surely we in this chamber cannot accept anything of that kind. For weeks we have discussed the position and duties of the Senate as one of the component bodies of parliament, and I maintain that as senators we should not delegate to any group which may happen to be the executive and governing group the right from time to time by order in council to regulate the trade, interprovincial and international, of this country.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. King: I am deeply distressed that the government has presented us with a bill of this character. My confidence is shaken more especially because what I complain about is sought to be done under cover of a bill dealing with dairy products. All of us are interested in the dairy industry; all of us want to see it thrive. Has the dairy industry ever been in a better position than it is today?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Never.

Hon. Mr. King: Is the dairy industry capable of producing, even for 70 to 80 cents a pound, all the butter that Canadians can consume? Some of us recall what happened two or three years ago in Alberta, when a bunch of hoodlums, supposedly acting in the interests of the dairy industry, seized the milk and cream which farmers were bringing in from the range to sell, and dumped it on the road, and it was only by police intervention that these actions were stopped.

I am a heavy butter eater. Years ago you could get as much butter as you wished in restaurants, but today you do not get enough to satisfy your needs. I have never heard these men who represent the dairy industry—these pressure groups which come to Ottawa, and which express themselves so vigorously in the press—say one word about the opportunity which exists for them to increase the sale of their butter in our hotels and restaurants. Probably they are wise in not saying anything because they are not producing sufficient butter for our people. The Minister of Agriculture had to import some millions of pounds to take care of our own consumers.

We are indebted to the honourable senator from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Vien) for having discussed yesterday the constitutional aspects of this bill. He dealt with the court rulings which have recently been handed down. Now, the purpose of this bill in the light of those rulings is to satisfy a pressure group, and that is the dangerous sort of thing we are coming to in this country. I refer to delegations telling the government that their wishes are primary and must be given consideration above everything else. If we consent to this bill we will only be opening the door to other groups who are just as important as the dairy group. And let us not forget that the dairy group is only one small branch of agriculture. Like other businesses today, agriculture has become specialized. In driving through the country one notices the large farm buildings, stables and fine cattle herds, giving evidence of the wealth of the farmer who is engaged in the dairy business today.

My good friend from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) who is known as a peacemaker, said yesterday that while he would not vote for this bill he thought it should be referred to committee. What is the value of doing that? Why should a bill which is ambiguous, and for which no real need has been proclaimed, be given second reading and sent to committee at this late hour when our honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) is awaiting word from the Prime Minister to terminate our business for this session?

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. King: Under the rules of the Senate it is quite proper for any member who feels that a bill is harmful to the interests of the public to move, seconded by another honourable senator, that the bill be given what we call a six-months' hoist. This is a drastic and rare method which is only employed when there is substantial reason for it. His Honour the Speaker has been most generous in allowing honourable senators to extend the discussion on this bill, but he now has before him a motion which supersedes the motion of the honourable leader (Honourable Mr. Robertson) for the second reading of this bill.

It is said that horse meat is now being sold in Vancouver. This should provide a fine market for the horse breeders of Alberta and Saskatchewan, but what is to prevent the cattle ranchers of British Columbia from coming to Ottawa and claiming that because of importation of horse meat from the ranches of Alberta and Saskatchewan there should be restriction on the importation of horse meat into their province. That is only an illustration, but it comes under this bill.