

tion, but simply designates the kind of label which must be put upon the article, showing that all the processes are open to inspection, but not necessarily covered by it.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. That obviates the difficulty which I thought might exist with regard to the inspection. The other question which the hon. member for Northumberland spoke of, suggests a difficulty which the minister should take into consideration. It is not because of any lack of patriotic pride in the products of their industry that these smaller packers fail to provide themselves with a Canadian indication upon their article, but from the fact that they put up goods in that way, and have long been doing so, for the larger packer, who stamps them with his own mark and adopting them as his products, sends them out into the world. But in case of the small packer who puts up a small number of cases every year, to compel him to supply himself with a separate label, seems to me a somewhat onerous condition.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It seems to me it would have been advisable, if it were practicable, that the minister should have given notice in the Votes and Proceedings of important amendments of this kind. With regard to what has been said respecting the packing of lobsters, if the letter read by the hon. member for Northumberland is from Roberts, Simpson & Co., I can say that this is a firm of very great experience and high standing for a number of years, and their representations are worthy of consideration. I have no practical experience as a lobster packer, but I became acquainted with the methods of the business years ago by reason of having had to investigate it in the course of litigation. What has been said described it fairly well, except that I found some further conditions with regard to it which would seem to make that business perfectly open to inspection up to a particular standard. The practice in the county of Halifax and along the south shore of Nova Scotia would be somewhat like this: often a large exporter would not himself pack at all, he would have no packing establishment, but he would make contracts with a number of lobster packers along the shore early in the season; he would furnish them with the particular class of can, or prescribe the character of the can; he would furnish them with his own label, and specify not only the character of the lobsters that were to be packed, but in some instances, at least, the particular mode of packing; and then, when the cans were put up, a certain number having been examined by him for the purpose of testing them, they would be exported by him as his own goods. There does not seem to be anything in that which would exclude the business of lobster packing from inspection under the provisions of this Bill. But it is perfectly true, I think,

as stated by Messrs. Roberts, Simpson Co., that the sale of these goods on the continent of Europe is largely made upon the reputation of the firm which exports them to those countries.

Mr. FISHER. I think the state of affairs which the leader of the opposition has described would not be interfered with by this provision. He speaks of an exporter who did not himself pack lobsters personally, but who closely supervised the packing, which would be done in a number of different towns around the country. I would call such a man the individual whose name or address ought to be put on the package, that would be my interpretation of it. We have an instance of that kind under the Fruit Marks Act. It is frequently the case that the man whose name appears on a barrel of apples, or on a thousand barrels of apples, does not own the orchard, does not himself see any of all the barrels that bear his name. But he arranges with certain people to pack for him the product of certain orchards, and to put his name on the barrels. They act for him as his employees. In the same way with these packers the leader of the opposition mentions. These people in the small canneries would be the real employees, working under instructions, they would have no true responsibility. It is the individual who arranges with them to pack for him and who puts his name on the label, who is responsible. It might be that the clause could be worded so as to cover the point raised by the hon. member for East Elgin.

Mr. E. D. SMITH. The same with regard to canners of fruits and vegetables. A wholesale grocer wants his name put on the packages, he gives an order to the canner to put his name on. I do not approve of that, and never did. We never pack goods for a grocer in that way. But in the case referred to by the hon. member for East Elgin, a firm of canners, not finding themselves able to put up enough goods, make an agreement with some other factory that a certain quantity, or perhaps all their pack of the season, should be sold to them and packed subject to certain regulations as to standard and quality.

Mr. FISHER. I think that can be covered by these words:

With the initials or christian name and full surname and address, or in the case of a firm or corporation, with the firm or corporate name and address of the packer.

I think that the instructions to the inspector and the regulations can be so framed as to include in that the instances which have been given here so as to overcome the difficulty that might have occurred without this explanation. I shall be very glad to see that that is done.