

good one. There is too much trash disseminated amongst the people. But the question arises in my mind, who shall be the judge as to what is trash and what is not? It seems to me that the Postmaster General will have a difficult task before him to say what shall and what shall not be published. Of course, if he admits my advertisement to the papers some of the Tories will say that he is not acting fairly, and the Grits will say the same. We should have somebody who is not a politician to decide these matters. If the hon. gentleman is going to carry out this system, some censor should be appointed to say what matter should be disseminated amongst the people and what should not. I am satisfied the papers contain a good deal of trash and that the people read the trash in preference to reading the truth, but the difficulty will be to decide what is the truth. I am strongly in favour of keeping quack medicine advertisements, out of the papers, if possible, for they do the people no good.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I believe the hon. Postmaster General will find that anybody publishing an improper or obscene advertisement can be reached and punished under the criminal code. And as to this paternalistic scheme of his to guard the people in case some one should take some quack medicine that the doctor would not prescribe, I must say I cannot favour it. Let the people buy what they want. Why, what would Senator Fulford say to this kind of thing? He will not thank the Postmaster General for interfering with his advertisements of pink pills or with the newspapers that print those advertisements. The mere fact that he makes money out of them is no reason against them. Half these fellows who advertise patent medicines put out medicines that they believe may do some good. There is a little cayenne pepper in the liniments or a little ipecac in the medicines. Why, if the people want to use these things let them do so—they are like regular old wives' medicines, if they do not do any good, they will not do much harm. You will never make the people wise or cautious by legislation. The people learn that by experience. The hay-fork men came around the country but it did not take the farmers long to get on to them; and the lightning-rod men and all the others—the farmers soon learn. The farmers are not such fools as the Postmaster General seems to think they are. Why, they even get on to the politicians. The Postmaster General himself is known all over the country by the farmers. He used to come around and sing his little song about 'bigger patches on our pants.' But the farmer is not as gullible as the Postmaster General evidently thinks he is and he will take care of himself.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It seems to have taken the farmers of North Victoria a long time to learn wisdom.

Mr. JABEL ROBINSON.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. They are among the very best. The Postmaster General came in there with his political quack medicines, but the boys were on to him in a minute and they stood right by the old family physician.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill as amended reported.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. MACLEAN. I think the Postmaster General should not press the third reading at this time. This is a very important amendment that he has introduced, and without any notice given I believe. Certainly, the press of the country and others who are interested should have an opportunity to present any views that they have to present on the subject within the next twenty-four or forty-eight hours.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I think that is a reasonable request.

Motion for third reading withdrawn.

At one o'clock, House took recess.

House resumed at Three o'clock.

GENERAL INSPECTION ACT—AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 124) to amend the General Inspection Act—Sir Richard Cartwright—read the second time and House in committee thereon.

On section 1,

Mr. BLAIN. Will the minister give us an explanation of the weaknesses of the former legislation?

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT (Minister of Trade and Commerce). This section defines the word 'dealer' as meaning the person or firm manufacturing or importing, or having in his or its possession for sale, or exposing or offering for sale, any binder twine. Questions have been raised as to whether parties who have purchased binder twine from other parties and exposed it for sale should be held responsible for shortage. This Act involves the necessity of all parties who expose binder twine for sale taking the consequences of shortage.

Mr. BLAIN. If a dealer purchases binder twine from a manufacturer and a farmer purchases it from the dealer and it is found to be short, the farmer can proceed against the dealer rather than the manufacturer—is that it?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes. The dealer is held responsible for selling short twine; of course, he will have his remedy against the manufacturer.

Mr. CLANCY. While I sympathize with the desire that those purchasing twine shall