

though labels and the like of that add somewhat to the expense, the expense is trifling compared with the benefit that accrues to the consumers as a body because of these precautions.

Mr. ROBB: Take the case of milk. Are the bottles going to contain any more milk than they do at present. They are filled now; you cannot get any more into them, and if less be put into them the people will not buy. How is the label going to give the consumer any more milk?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It gives the consumer a guarantee as to the quantity he is getting. He knows he is getting what he pays for, whereas if there is no label he does not know.

Mr. ROBB: The minister loses sight of the fact that most housewives have a measure into which they dump these articles, and they can tell whether they are being fooled or not. If they are being fooled they quit dealing with that man.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There may be housewives shrewd enough to do that, but I think the majority of them do not take that trouble.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 358B—penalty for not marking:

Mr. ROBB: Who is going to prosecute in these cases?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Any one may prosecute.

Mr. ROBB: Not the department?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Inspectors have not been appointed for that purpose.

Mr. MORPHY: I understand the minister is going to except milk.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes, in some way protect it.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 358C—containers not marked, etc., to be seized:

Mr. ROBB: That brings out the point raised by the hon. member for Kingston that some of these containers may be seized and destroyed.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: To make the Act thoroughly effective we must have the power of seizing the illegal instrument. It does not say that it will be destroyed.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 358D—exceptions:

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I desire to amend this clause so that it shall apply

to imports. It does not seem to be just to our packers, dealers and consumers unless this is done. If we compel our own people who are putting up foods, for instance, in cartons to put on their names and the weight or the measure, whatever it may be, it would then be unfair to allow similar goods to be imported into this country, which might be done up in exactly the same kind of carton, but would not have the weight, the capacity marks or the name of the packer upon them. Sufficient time is given in the Act for these changes to be brought about by the importers of any such goods into this country. The Act will not go into force for a year, and these changes can be brought about by persons who are importing that class of goods into this country.

Mr. FIELDING: You retain the right to cheat the farmer, if you wish.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I do not understand my hon. friend.

Mr. FIELDING: It does not apply to export. Therefore, we can cheat the farmer if we are smart enough, and he is dull enough; I merely want to understand the Bill.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The man, for instance, who is exporting goods into Russia or Germany—if we ever get on peaceful trade conditions with Germany—or the man who is importing into any other foreign country, does not want the Canadian weight marked upon them. He wants them marked in his own way, with his own weights and measures. In fact, it would destroy the export business to foreign countries in the vast majority of the articles if we insisted upon marking them according to the terms of our own Act. We had to make an exception in regard to barbed wire and various other things.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 358E—Variations of weight, etc., allowed.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: After more thorough consideration and conference with the business men, it has been found advisable to change the clause. Discrepancies in weight or measure due exclusively to differences in atmospheric conditions and so on, will occur, and some provision must be made for them. The provision we had at first was calculated on a percentage of the original weight, but that works very unfairly. In some cases