

that under the Liquor License law, the fact that liquor was sold is sufficient to justify a conviction, whether the owner knew of the matter or not.

Mr. PEDLOW: That is a different thing altogether.

Mr. COWAN: Is there in existence now any law compelling parties putting up goods to label or stamp the can or package with the net weight of the contents? Just this morning I received a letter from one of the largest wholesale men in the West, complaining that all of the packages which came from Eastern Canadian manufacturers are short from four to six ounces, and he finds that American cans and packages all contain exactly what they are labelled to contain, the result being that he cannot sell Eastern Canadian goods to the western people. Is there any means by which that can be dealt with, or will it be dealt with under this Bill?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: We have now on the Statute Books such a law covering a large number of articles, and it is my intention to introduce at this session another Bill on the subject, which Bill passed the House of Commons at the last session, but which was, for some reason or other, defeated in the Senate. When that is enacted, we shall have complete legislation requiring all containers to have on the label the exact contents of the packages.

Mr. COWAN: I am glad to hear that, because I know the eastern manufacturers are suffering greatly in the West by reason of the practice I have mentioned. If this condition continues, eastern manufacturers will lose their trade in the western market. There is no reason why they should be allowed to defraud our people, for that is what it amounts to.

Mr. PEDLOW: I think the minister is not giving this point the consideration it deserves. As the hon. member for Huntingdon has pointed out certain commodities after being carefully weighed will shrink in weight, while others will increase; it depends upon the atmosphere in which the goods are kept. Textiles for instance, will shrink in weight in a dry atmosphere, and increase in weight in a damp atmosphere. If the minister does not accept my suggestion to insert the word "knowingly" in the first line, I think this clause will be a most dangerous one, and will subject the mercantile interests of this country to a great deal of annoyance. I am informed by legal gentlemen in the House that the

Criminal Code already covers the cases which this clause seeks to cover. It is impossible for any merchant to measure goods exactly at all times. How then can we possibly hold him accountable for the acts of his employees? The human element enters into the transaction; it is impossible to be always exact. If this clause passes in its present form, the proprietor of a store will be liable to be hauled before the magistrate and fined \$25 because his clerk on one occasion happened to give short weight, not with any intention of defrauding, but simply because the human element entered into the transaction. Furthermore, it will cause a whole lot of trouble for the department.

Mr. MARSHALL: In putting up canned goods, we do not guarantee the quantity. We use standard cans, and we fill them. I think the hon. member is very much mistaken when he says that the cans are sometimes short in weight from four to six ounces. Speaking for the Dominion Canners, while we may have had complaints as to quality, we have had none as to quantity. All our cans of corn and peas are filled by machinery at the rate of from 70 to 100 cans a minute. At this rate, it is possible for an occasional can to be not quite as full as others, but generally they are all full. A shortage in weight is more likely to occur in canning fruits which are filled by hand. For corn, peas and tomatoes we use the standard can used, same as used in the United States. We could not get help enough to fill these cans by hand and keep up our output. I have never heard of anything relating to short weight except perhaps with regard to fruits. We buy a great deal of produce, and we used to have trouble over raspberries and strawberries, but now all our produce is bought by weight. In my opinion this Bill is along the right lines.

Mr. LEGER: I believe this clause should be amended to protect the merchant. A dissatisfied clerk who is about to leave may try to get even with his employer by giving short weight for the whole day before he leaves. Under this clause the merchant would be fined while the clerk would go scot-free. If short weight is given, I would make the merchant make good the shortage. I think that the clerk who deliberately gave short weight should be looked after, as well as the merchant.

Mr. CASSELMAN: As one who is engaged in the mercantile business and has a fairly good knowledge of the conditions, I approve