

ments so that the Bill left this House practically useless. It looks to me as if the minister to-day after bringing down this Bill is proceeding to cut out clause after clause, and I think he ought to tell us at once how many clauses he intends to cut out.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am going to make two or three amendments with the consent of the committee. I know my hon. friend's regard for system and order, and I think we will get along better if we deal with each clause as we come to it.

Mr. BUREAU: Section 339 of the Inspection and Sale Act was enacted by this Parliament as a protection for the consumer. The Minister of Trade and Commerce now proposes to do away with that section and to give entire control to the Minister of Agriculture to make regulations by Order in Council as to the weight of a dozen eggs. This is not the first time I have risen to protest in this House against that sort of thing. Why should we repeal this clause which has been enacted by Parliament and give the Minister of Agriculture power to go ahead and make regulations without consulting this House? Certainly the minister is not taking this action without first having consulted with the Minister of Agriculture, and I should like to know what reasons have led the minister to withdraw this section, which I think was passed in the interest of the consumer. They must surely have deliberated over the matter and have arrived at this conclusion after mature consideration. I want to know why it is proposed to repeal legislation enacted by this Parliament and to put in the hands of one man power to regulate these matters by Order in Council.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My answer is this: Parliament last year passed certain legislation giving certain powers to the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of Agriculture and his department, after giving their best thought to the matter, have matured certain regulations with respect to the grading and weight of eggs. That being the case, we certainly should not have any conflicting legislation in the Inspection and Sale Act, and it would certainly be improper for me to follow those regulations with duplicate or correlative legislation.

Mr. BUREAU: That is no answer. We have given power to the Minister of Agriculture to pass regulations, but those regulations were to be subject to the laws on the Statute Book at that time. We never

intended to give the Minister of Agriculture power to annul legislation which had been enacted by this Parliament.

My understanding of giving power to any minister to make regulations is that he may pass these regulations subject to any law enacted by Parliament and in force at the time that the power to make regulations was given. What do we see now? We see the Minister of Trade and Commerce asking us to repeal a statute because it might interfere with the Minister of Agriculture, and he says, "You have given this power to the Minister of Agriculture to make regulations." I say, certainly we have, but subject to all regulations and restrictions imposed by law at the time the power was given to make the regulations. I consider the answer of the Minister of Trade and Commerce is no answer to my objection. I am not satisfied with it, and I would like to know if there is anything besides what he has stated that influenced them, in their joint wisdom, to come to the conclusion that, in order to give a freer hand to the Minister of Agriculture, he has to repeal statutes already enacted by Parliament.

Mr. JOSEPH READ: I will ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce—and I see the Minister of Agriculture is also present—if the new standards which they purpose to put in force are the standards adopted at the Third Annual Convention of the Canadian Produce Association held at Guelph, January 11th and 12th, 1915, where they adopted the following definitions of grades:

Specials:—Eggs of uniform size weighing over 24 ozs. to the dozen or over 45 lbs. net to the 30 dozen case; absolutely clean, strong and sound in shell; air cell small, not over $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch in depth; white of egg to be firm and clear and yolk dimly visible; free from blood clots.

Extras:—Eggs of good size, weighing at least 24 ozs. to the dozen or 45 lbs. net to the 30 dozen case; clean; sound in shell; air cell less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth; white of egg to be firm and yolk slightly visible.

No. 1's:—Eggs weighing at least 23 ozs. to the dozen or 43 lbs. net to the 30 dozen case; clean; sound in shell; air cell less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth; white of egg to be reasonably firm; yolk may be quite visible but mobile, not stuck to the shell or seriously out of place; air cell not necessarily stationary.

No. 2's:—Eggs clean; sound in shell; may contain weak watery eggs and eggs with heavy yolks, and all other eggs sound in shell and fit for food.

Is that the regulation that is intended to be put in force if this section is repealed? This matter is under the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. CRERAR: The regulations the hon. gentleman has read were promulgated by