

planation about the difference in regard to shipments from British Columbia would do for one quarter but not for three consecutive quarters. The minister explains that one set of figures was based on hundredweights of 100 pounds instead of 112, but that would only make a trivial difference. He goes further and says: Well, look at these other figures, and he draws a pretty picture of another bunch of figures—

Mr. STEVENS: No, I did not.

Mr. NEILL: —drawing a herring across the trail. I never said anything about the year's figures because I have not got them. The minister has access to the figures, but at the time that I spoke I had not access to them. He says: "Never mind about the June quarter, and there is something wrong with the September quarter; but look at these—they are lovely; they fit all right."

Mr. STEVENS: I made no such statement about there being something wrong with the quarterly figures.

Mr. NEILL: The minister made the inference that there was something wrong because he tried to explain the difference by referring to hundredweights of 100 pounds and 112 pounds. He gets around the thing by such well known methods as he is rather fond of. He says: "Yes, but look at this other picture; isn't it nice, and doesn't it fit?" I do not know if it does, because I have not got the figures; therefore I am not talking about it.

We will go a stage further and take the minister's own figures as set forth so extensively on these two pages of Hansard. There are even discrepancies in that. This is the latest thing, fixed up to show the thing is all right. It shows the total for the year as 101,765 hundredweight, while his own Commercial Intelligence Journal of February 24, says that the imports of canned salmon for the year 1933 were 100,988 hundredweight. That is another discrepancy to be accounted for.

Take another error in these same revised figures. On the page referred to, 978, he gives the imports for the year. I have taken them for the nine months, because that is all of which I have knowledge. I added the March quarter, 18,958; the June quarter, 8,360 and the September figure, 27,189, which makes a total of 54,507. Remember those are British hundredweights; there is no doubt about that, because it is specifically so stated. But the Commercial Intelligence Journal of November 24 gives the number of canned salmon in the

[Mr. Neill.]

same nine months as 53,688 hundredweight, a discrepancy of 819 hundredweight, or 91,922 pounds. That is the latest; the minister has had time to consult and get the thing all ready, yet his own figures show these discrepancies.

However, I have not laboured in vain, because the very day we were talking about this there was laid on my desk a correction in the bulletin; it says the export figures for January, 1934, were incorrectly given in hundredweights instead of pounds in connection with concentrated milk production, a difference of well over a million pounds. So it shows there has been in the preparation of that bulletin carelessness and slackness. I am not attacking anyone's integrity, but I say the compiler of that bulletin has been careless and slack in presenting those returns. If they do these things in the green tree what shall be done in the dry?

Mr. STEVENS: I think it is most unfortunate that the hon. member should persist in arguing this point. I thought that by submitting an explanatory statement as I did the other day my hon. friend would have understood it. But he still persists in the contention that in particular quarters referred to there is a discrepancy. I have explained about three times that there is bound to be a discrepancy where there is movement of goods. He takes the quarter comprising the months of July, August and September. The Canadian figures show an export of 30,000 hundredweight in August and 18,000 in September. The British figures for August and September are much lower. But the British figures for October greatly exceed the Canadian figures of October exports, showing clearly that the goods were in transit. My hon. friend knows better than any member of the house that the major movement of the salmon pack from British Columbia is in the months of September, October and November. It is perfectly clear, if one wishes to be fair in the matter, as clear as the nose on the hon. member's face.

Then he takes me to task for giving the year's figures. I gave them for the purpose of showing—keeping in mind the movement of the goods and the time that must elapse between their leaving the Pacific coast and arriving in the United Kingdom,—that the figures were remarkably close.

The hon. gentleman takes to task the officials of the bureau for drawing attention to an inaccuracy in a previous report. In the mass of figures issued there are bound to be inaccuracies, but they are carefully checked