

packing establishments in the Dominion of Canada by far than that and wherever you have a meat packing establishment you have the liability for inspection because each one of these has a perfect right to engage in the export or interprovincial trade, calling all that export trade which is not within the province itself and practically, I suppose, nearly all of any pretensions at all will export meat from their own local provinces. Take the packers of meat in the provinces of Saskatchewan or Alberta; it would be almost certain that they would export from one province or the other, or both, to Manitoba or British Columbia and so with all the other provinces. On what basis does the minister confine the number of places to be inspected to forty or forty-five? I do not know but it would seem to me that in this country there would be three or four times as many packing establishments of greater or less pretensions that would engage in the export trade.

Mr. FISHER. When the excitement arose in regard to what I call the Chicago revelations, I thought it would be worth while to find out the condition of affairs in Canada and in the interest of the trade I instructed one of the officers of my department, Mr. W. W. Moore, who has been concerned in various investigations in the department at various times in the course of the last five or six years, a gentleman who was in the department when I came and who has risen rapidly in consequence of showing his ability and capacity, to ascertain how many establishments there were in Canada. We have all sorts of directories and information which would enable us to find out. Mr. Moore visited every one of the establishments he could find that was engaged in the export trade. I have not his report under my hand, but I may say that he visited factories and abattoirs to the number of forty-five. I have his assurance that he visited all the factories that he could find in Canada which were of a character that could be held to be engaged in large trade. He did not even confine himself absolutely to those which were known to be engaged in the export trade but he also visited those engaged in a large trade. He went to all of them and made a report upon them. These, as I have said were forty-five in number. I venture to say that a considerable number of these—probably eight or nine—are not and never have been engaged in the interprovincial or export trade within the meaning of this Act. I may say here that when I speak of the export trade I use that word 'export' within the meaning of this Act. Therefore, instead of forty-five there may be about thirty-five engaged in the export trade, and I anticipate that this trade will increase and that we must therefore be prepared to meet that

increased demand. If I had based the calculation which I have given my hon. friend on what I am sure is the actual present number engaged in the export trade in Canada I could have fairly used thirty-six or thirty-seven instead of forty-five, but I feel that at any moment a number of these others may engage in the export trade and that we must be prepared to meet the conditions. I did not make a guess on this. I did it on the information which was obtained from this investigation I spoke of and from a study of this question for several months before this Bill was thought out and introduced into the House. I think it will be found that the figures I have given are pretty fairly within the mark.

Mr. FOSTER. Another point, the minister had that gentleman make an investigation not simply to enumerate the establishments that would probably be brought under the Bill, but I suppose, to find out the conditions under which the slaughtering, preparation and packing of these meats were carried on. What was the general purport of that officer's report as to the conditions and the results as brought out in the completed article?

Mr. FISHER. I have already said I would have been glad to place the report on the table, but that there are some statements in it with regard to certain details the publication of which I do not think would be consistent with fair treatment to the individuals concerned. These references have nothing to do with either the sanitary conditions or the proper management of the factories; they are statements in regard to the trade of certain persons which I do not think it fair to them to publish. If the House will accept that report with certain statements taken out of it, I shall be glad to place it on the table. I may say that the whole tenor of the report is reassuring. With very slight exceptions the report was most favourable to our packing Houses; the unfavourable references were to certain of the smaller houses and the details of that unfavourable criticism were comparatively minor in their character. The owners of these establishments assured my inspector they would immediately take steps to follow out his suggestions, and remove the slight lack of perfection which was pointed out. It is of course practically impossible that in Canada such conditions could exist as did exist in Chicago and other places in the United States. Our packing houses are scattered; they are not in a crowded locality; there is plenty of room, and air, and opportunity for the best sanitary conditions. There is another consideration, namely, the character of the employees. In almost every case the employees in our factories were found to be Canadians, men born and bred in Canada and brought up with an appreciation of the importance of sanitary