

Bill (86) An Act to incorporate the Northern Empire Railway Company.—(Hon. Mr. DeVeber, Middlesex.)

Bill (53) An Act respecting the New Brunswick Southern Railway Company.—(Hon. Mr. Ellis.)

Bill (101) An Act respecting the Fort William Terminal Railway and Bridge Company.—(Hon. Mr. Watson.)

MEAT AND CANNED GOODS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (149) An Act to amend the Meat and Canned Goods Act.

(In the Committee.)

On clause 1,

1. Section 11 of the Meat and Canned Foods Act, chapter 27 of the statutes of 1907, is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:

11. The Governor in Council may, upon application of the owner thereof, exempt any establishment from the operation of the provisions of sections 3 and 4, and of sections 6 to 10, both inclusive, of this Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This gives power to the Governor in Council to exempt any establishment from the operation of the provisions of those clauses.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I should like to ask the hon. minister if the former provision has been found too exacting or too strict. Because this first clause repeals the former Act and will give the Governor in Council power to exempt any packing establishment from the operation of the provisions in sections 3, 4, 6 and 10 of this Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The law could be better observed by making it general, and if you want to make any exception to it, let it be brought before the Governor in Council, and let him take the responsibility of exempting in any particular locality.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—You cannot be too strict in regard to canned meats.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Can my hon. friend explain what has led to this amendment?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Three and four are arbitrary provisions—all animals intended

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE.

for slaughter shall be inspected, and so on, and all carcasses and portions thereof slaughtered and intended for export shall be inspected as provided by the regulations. Then section 6 provides that every carcass or portion thereof found to be healthy and fit for food shall be marked by the inspector as provided by the regulations, &c. There was a proviso that the Governor in Council might exempt certain establishments. Now all are subject to the law; but they must make out a case for exemption before they are exempt. At present it is compulsory.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It removes to the Governor in Council what parliament has made obligatory upon the canners.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Why should this power be taken out of the statutes and placed in the Governor in Council, because it would seem to me upon the face of it to be very desirable that this obligation should be compulsory and should not be optional. It simply becomes optional if the powers are vested in the Governor in Council. That is to say, whatever influence may be brought to bear upon the Governor in Council will determine whether they are brought into force or not.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The explanation, in addition to what I have just stated is as follows: Section 11 of the Act provides that parts of the Act regarding compulsory inspection shall apply only to such establishments as are from time to time designated by order in council. After administering the law for some time, it was found advisable to apply them to all establishments engaged in export trade, and this is to empower the Governor in Council to exempt small establishments which will not pay for the cost of inspection.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 2.

2. Paragraph (a) of section 12 of the said Act is amended by adding thereto the following:

Or of the first dealer obtaining them direct from the packer who sells or offers the said articles for sale; and such dealer shall, upon the request of an inspector appointed under this Act, disclose the name of the packer of such article.