

very serious consideration of the minister in war time. I received a little courage from what the minister did in regard to section 360B, which he is dropping out altogether. He says, in effect, that the millionaire who is selling carload upon carload of cement can do so with impunity and have short weight, but he is not to be punished. This is another case where the big influence has found its way to the power house somewhere. I would not suggest for a moment that the minister would be influenced in that way, but some parties who have the power of switching and turning and twisting this Act have been influenced, so that where the big interests are concerned they are not punished, but the poor man who comes along with an ox load and half a cord of wood has no protection and no back road to the power house; nobody cares whether he loses his ox or not. I can see the greatest possible chance of this poor man, who has half a cord of wood and an ox team, walking home.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: You are behind the times.

Mr. McKENZIE: And if it is a second offence, he will have to go home and get the other ox to pay the balance of the fine; the wood, sled and oxen will have disappeared, and the man will be left with nothing, simply because he happened to be half a stick short in a cord of wood. I am sure that in a moment the minister will see that he has let the millionaire out. He can come with half or three-quarters of a bag of cement and call it a bag, and there is no punishment. I feel confident that when the minister sees he is letting the millionaire out he will be only too happy to apply the same principle to the poor man with the ox team and half a cord of wood.

Mr. HENDERS: I am quite prepared to accept legislation that will give sixteen ounces to the pound to the millionaire and the poor man. As I understand the amendment to this Bill, provision is made that the law as to marking the number of pounds on a sack does not apply. I venture to say that about twenty-five per cent of the cement made use of through the country passes into the hands of men who have no opportunity of weighing it. They have to take the weight as it comes to them. It is a generally understood thing that the sack will contain so many pounds. They accept that as being a law and are governed by it. If there is no marking on the sack,

[Mr. McKenzie.]

they are simply at the mercy of the man at the other end. The fact that a certain quantity of sacks are now in use does not seem to me a justification for not marking. If they have decided only to put 87 pounds in these sacks, it is not a difficult matter for them to mark 87 pounds on the sack, and then no matter where they go each bag carries its character on its face, and everybody will get fair play. I therefore think it would be well to reconsider that amendment with regard to the weight. The same thing would obtain in regard to the cordwood. I am not in favour of doctoring up the law so that one man will be subject to one law and another subject to another law governing the handling of the same article. If 128 cubic feet is the right measurement for a cord of wood, then let it be so provided, and let it apply to mill woods and every other kind of wood. If I buy a half cord of mill wood I expect to get half of 128 cubic feet, and if I buy a quarter cord I expect to get a quarter cord. The same rule should obtain with regard to cement. Let it be enacted that 100 pounds, or that 94 pounds, shall constitute a sack, and let it be shown on the sack how much it contains.

Mr. MORPHY: The hon. minister has dropped the words "net weight."

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The difficulty in putting in the net weight is that it is all done by mechanical packing, and it is impossible to have absolute uniformity in the weights. If you are packing the cement by hand in a bag and fill the bag to 94 pounds capacity, put the bag on a scale, and find that there is 94 pounds there, you can mark that weight on it, and you are sure of it. When cement is machine-bagged and bag after bag passes under the machine, sometimes a little less goes in and sometimes a little more; it is impossible to get a uniform weight. You might say: Go over every one of these bags, weigh each one, fill in the deficit of one, and take out the surplus of another so that each will contain 94 pounds, and then mark your net weight. That is mechanically and physically impossible; it cannot be done. But you have the name of the manufacturer on the bag, you have the standard of 94 pounds to a bag and, if it is not a 94-pound bag, you pay the fraction of the price, whatever it may be.

Mr. MORPHY: The Minister will realize the position in which he is going to put the public. Cement is sold by the bag.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It is sold by the weight.