

cers of the Fisheries Department, it was agreed that twelve ounces would be the proper statutory requirement for the pound can, because the greater quantity could not well be placed there. It may be partly a compromise; I do not say that you could not put twelve and-a-half ounces in the can, or that some packers could not put thirteen in it. But it is better to say that every can of lobster must contain a specified quantity of lobster meat, than to say that a pound can shall contain fourteen ounces, when in all human probability it cannot contain that amount.

Mr. COPP: My hon. friend is like myself, not an expert, and he says that the officials in the Fisheries Department are. The officials in the department here who have charge of the fisheries, were before the Committee, and that was not the information they gave, nor was it the information upon which the Committee made their recommendations to this House. Let me quote the words of one whom I consider an expert in the matter—and I am sure the minister will agree with me in calling him an expert—a man who has quite as good a reputation in the fishery business as some of the officials in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. In this House, on September 6th, 1917, the hon. member for Northumberland, N.B. (Mr. Loggie), who has a very great interest in this matter, made these remarks which will be found on page 5426 of the revised Hansard:

Mr. Loggie: I happen to be a member of the committee to which this Bill was referred but unfortunately I was absent when it was under discussion. I certainly would not have given my assent to the report of the committee as it came before the House, nor to the Bill as it passed the House and went to the Senate. As to the contents of tins, whether they should be 16 ounces of dry meat, or 13, or 14, or 15 ounces, that is a matter of opinion. It has not been the practice to put 16 ounces of dry meat in a pound can of lobster for a good many years.

He does not say that it could not be done, but that it has not been the practice for a good many years. Evidently it must be inferred that, for a good many years, packers of lobsters in the Maritime provinces honestly wanted to give the consumer 16 ounces to the pound, and that for a good many years they did that. But, he says, that for a good many years they have not been putting in 16 ounces. He continues:

Dry lobsters are not considered as acceptable to the trade as those that have a little juice in the can when it is opened. It has been the practice for many years by most packers to put 15 ounces of meat in a pound can and one ounce of pickle.

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

If it was the practice for many years to put into the can fifteen ounces avoirdupois of dry lobster meat with one ounce of pickle to preserve it, surely the same can might now be held to contain at least fourteen ounces of dry meat and one ounce of pickle. My hon. friend said that I was altogether wrong with regard to the reason why the coming into force of the Act was delayed until the 15th December, 1918. If I remember correctly, he was not a member of that committee and did not hear the arguments adduced before it. I had the privilege of being present, and I took some interest in the discussion; and while I will not say that the question of labels was not considered at all, I have a very distinct recollection that one of the strongest arguments made for delaying the coming into force of the Act 15th December, 1918, was that many of the lobster packers had their cans ready for that year's operation; further that they had the machinery for making the cans, and it would mean quite a loss to them if they had to change that machinery before another year's operations.

Mr. LOGGIE: Who gave the evidence regarding the machinery?

Mr. COPP: Quite a large number of those who professed to know the lobster business gave the information to the Committee. My hon. friend himself gave some information with regard to it.

Mr. LOGGIE: Not to that effect.

Mr. COPP: And he gave information, as he gave the House information in 1917, that the cans for many years contained fifteen ounces of lobster meat. He advises us now that there should be at least fourteen ounces of dry lobster meat in the one-pound cans. He is prepared to stand behind the recommendation that was made by that committee. He told the acting minister, before the dinner recess, that at the conference at Halifax he advised the delegates not to make application for a change. I am not taking the ground that the cans should not be labelled; that the packer's name should not be on the can; nor that the amount of dry lobster meat should not be stated on the can. My hon. friend apparently misunderstands my position. I say that those regulations are placed in the statute book now and they have never been in operation since Parliament passed the legislation; and now, to suit the whim of a few individuals—and he does not give the Committee the advantage of knowing who is making application for this change—he asks Parliament to change the enactments made in 1917