

Mr. LOGGIE. The minister has applied my remarks principally to canned lobsters. It is a very common thing for the wholesale grocers in the American cities to ask that canned blueberries go forward to that market unlabelled. There is no such law in effect at the present time in the United States that a packer must have his name on the cans. I wish to add to that that all Canadian goods that go forward without the packer's label on the can must have on the can a label worded 'Packed in Canada.' No cans are allowed by law to enter the United States market unless there is a label of some kind on, but all that is needed on the can to make it a legal entry into the United States is a small label 'Packed in Canada.' Perhaps the name of the article is required as well. I am not very much interested in that, although there are shipped a considerable quantity of goods in that way, but, comparatively speaking, the amount is very small. Practically all the goods packed in my province go forward to the United States under labels of packer. The House may be interested to know that a large proportion of the canned blueberries that are consumed in the United States at the present time are the growth of our Canadian fields, but are packed on the other side of the line. Not many canned blueberries have gone into the United States of recent years, the duty is so prohibitive; it is equal to 70 per cent on canned blueberries. Most of the blueberries that are of Canadian production go over in a raw state and pay a much less rate of duty and are canned in the border towns. Surely I can quote this as proof that where high rates of duty are put on goods the consumer pays the duty, for these canned blueberries are distributed from New Brunswick and the coast of the St. Lawrence all the way out to Vancouver, Winnipeg being a large consumer, to the wholesale grocers at about 75 cents a dozen, while the same goods are sold to the American wholesale grocer at \$1.15 a dozen. The difference is the 70 per cent duty. This matter regarding the labels on canned blueberries will not have much effect on the trade as far as I am aware, because when they cross the line and are packed there they would not be subject to this law. They put on our Canadian label over in Vanceboro, Maine, and from there the goods are distributed to the United States distributing centres.

Mr. FISHER. Do I understand that in Vanceboro, Maine, they put the Canadian label on?

Mr. LOGGIE. Yes, Sir.

Mr. FISHER. And distribute them as Canadian blueberries?

Mr. LOGGIE. Yes, Sir.

Mr. FISHER. Although canned in the United States?

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. LOGGIE. Yes, Sir, they do. Another clause in Roberts, Simpson & Company's letter reads:

The retail buyers in the United Kingdom and on the continent of Europe rely on the distributors for the quality of their goods, and buy more freely when they know the sellers are reputable than they would if they were expected to take the guarantees of the packers whose names would be marked on the cans, and even in spite of government inspection, they would be unwilling to pay cash in full against documents.

I may say that the business of exporting lobsters is done cash against documents, and they rely entirely upon the reputation of the packer; and, as I said before, there are not many packers who undertake to do an exporting business. The large packers buy very largely from the small packers, but they would not feel like having the name of the small packer on the cans if they are to use their own label or send them forward unlabelled. I wish to bring the matter before the minister so that he may consider it. Perhaps it would be well to hold it over and further consider that phase of the question.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. My hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Loggie) has suggested a condition of affairs in regard to the lobster industry that would seem to indicate that there might be some difficulty in the working out of this Bill in regard to that great industry. As my hon. friend has well said, the practice in the maritime provinces in many counties is for small packers to put up 25 to 100 cases at a small factory, and it would hardly be expected that the people who are operating on such a small scale would prepare themselves with such labels as are used by the large packers who have a staple product with a reputation abroad, that label being well known in the wholesale market everywhere. As a consequence, these small packers sell to the large packers, their cans are not marked, and they are labelled by the large packer and disposed of by him. There is no particular reason for that custom, except the fact that parties operate on a small scale. A farmer and his family and friends may perhaps have a lobster factory on the front of their property, and they put up a small quantity of lobsters and sell them in that way. I find that section 7 is apparently the section which deals with the labelling of packages, and that contemplates a continuous inspection by some one appointed by the minister of the establishment used to put up these articles.

Mr. FISHER. I will point out to my hon. friend in the first place that section 7 as now found in the Act only applies to meats, the section now under discussion is a new section and applies to all establishments; it does not provide for a complete inspection.