

of his sons have gone overseas, has a big enough job as it is to fill three or four hundred bottles of milk. If he has to separate out his covers in accordance with the size of his bottles, and if his name and the quantity of milk have to be on each of these covers, it is going to mean a great deal more work for him, and more expense, and he will accordingly have to charge more for the milk.

Mr. PELLETIER: How will this legislation operate in rural districts where a farmer is coming into a city or town or village with four or five or six dozen eggs, or ten or fifteen pounds of butter?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It does not affect such transactions at all.

Mr. PELLETIER: What about a dealer who receives butter from a number of different farmers through the mail, and who puts that into a large receptacle such as a tub? Has that to be marked? The dealer does not know where this butter comes from. It is made up from butter from fifteen or twenty farmers.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: All he has to do is to sell it out as required, by the pound or in packages, as he pleases. That is a broken package.

Mr. PELLETIER: Suppose he were to ship it, what is the result? He would take the responsibility of marking the container.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: If he exports or sends it away in large lots in containers, then he comes under this legislation. If he, after buying butter from different places, puts it into containers or packages, he has to put his name and the weight on them.

Mr. KAY: The minister should, before this clause passes, let us know what exceptions he is going to make.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The exceptions are:

Any article manufactured or packed for export, all goods sold in bulk or broken packages, fresh fruit and vegetables, all articles which are provided for elsewhere in the Inspection and Sale Act, all articles held in stock by wholesaler or retailer prior to the coming into force of this Act, packages containing two ounces avoirdupois or less, which packages shall be exempt from marking in terms of weight, packages containing one fluid ounce or less, which packages shall be exempt from marking in terms of measure, any article the sale of which as regards the weight or marking is provided for under other statutes, food commodities which may at the time this Act comes into force or which thereafter may be subject

[Mr. Sexsmith.]

to any regulations or order of the Canada Food Control Board as respects the weight of such commodity or the weight or proportion of the ingredients used in the manufacture of such commodity, and all food commodities held in stock at the time such regulations of the Canada Food Board referred to in paragraph (h) become inoperative.

Mr. ROBB: I want to emphasize what has been said by the hon. member (Mr. Sexsmith) that all these regulations have the effect of increasing the cost to the consumer. The regulations passed from time to time by the Canada Food Board ever since its organization have done nothing but help to increase the cost to the consumer. They have recognized themselves that some of their regulations are so foolish they have withdrawn them two or three weeks after they have been passed. Let me give an instance. The Food Board some time ago pointed out that the expense of putting up goods in cartons was excessive and passed regulations that no retailer should sell less than twenty pounds of oatmeal, rolled oats, or flour in a carton. It was ridiculous on the face of it, because in many families twenty pounds of oatmeal would spoil before it could be used, and many other families could not afford to buy so much at a time. The Food Board recognized that eventually and withdrew those regulations. The minister comes here to-day at the request of the Canada Food Board and attempts to pass regulations which one of his supporters points out is going to increase the cost to the consumer. I endorse that view, and I think the minister should carefully consider before imposing further restrictions which will have the effect of increasing the cost of living.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My hon. friend will admit that food boards and all other people have to learn by experience and that we all make mistakes. I dare say my hon. friend, looking back over his own business career, can see where he has made mistakes. I deprecate wholesale criticism of the value of the work of the Food Board. It is almost impossible to protect the consumer without adding something to the expense, but you have to take into account the ultimate gain to the consumer, which is far and away above the small additional expense entailed. It is with that purpose that this legislation has been introduced. My hon. friend will admit that there has been great imposition upon the consumer in respect to carton and container sales, and it is impossible to rectify that without taking some measures of precaution, and