

Customs Act

Mr. Hahn: In speaking on the amendment yesterday the minister mentioned section 43 of the Customs Act as providing protection for fresh fruits and vegetables, and he said—

The Chairman: Order. May I remind the hon. member that the clause we are discussing deals with manufactured goods, and I cannot permit a discussion of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Hahn: Mr. Chairman, I was coming to that. I was going to ask the minister if he would be so kind as to give us a definition of manufactured goods, so we could at least be assured that there was more protection under this section than there is under section 43 for the fruit and vegetable growers.

Mr. McCann: There is no definition in the act of "manufactured goods", but there is a definition of goods. I have no doubt the hon. member is familiar with it. It reads:

"goods" means goods, wares and merchandise or movable effects of any kind, including vehicles, horses, cattle and other animals;

Mr. Hahn: That is a definition of goods. I quite agree that is what I wanted yesterday, but I should like to have the minister explain what manufactured goods are. Are the goods contained within a can considered as manufactured goods? It would be worth something to know that. I should like a definition of "manufactured goods".

Mr. McCann: At the moment I cannot give an answer to that, except to say that the word speaks for itself. An interpretation of the word "manufactured" can be obtained by looking in any standard dictionary.

Mr. Hahn: I should like to ask the minister, then, whether or not the goods within the can would be considered manufactured goods?

Mr. McCann: I should think they would. They are canned goods. They have gone through a process of manufacture which changes them from the original.

Mr. Hahn: Let us take butter. If it is in a package, is it also manufactured goods?

Mr. McCann: It would be regarded as a manufactured product.

Mr. Hahn: What about canned cherries?

Mr. McCann: I gave an answer to that yesterday, and stated that canned cherries would be manufactured goods.

Mr. Hahn: But the cherries themselves would not? The reason I raise the question, sir, is that on a perusal of section 43 we find it has to do with erroneously classified or priced goods for entry. It does not mention the end of the season goods in which we

[Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain).]

were so interested and which the Prime Minister was quite willing to accept in the act. That was my purpose in suggesting it.

Mr. Fleming: It has been indicated already that the matter of delay in determining the value for import purposes under the amendment has given a number of hon. members concern. I presume that will depend, to some extent, on the number of inspectors available to the department for checking on the average price weighted as to quantity, at which the goods in question are sold in the country of origin prior to the date of export to Canada. What provision has been made by the department in that respect? The minister made reference the other day to the fact that there are inspectors in the United States. At page 693 of *Hansard* for December 8, 1953, the minister answered a question asked by the member for Rosetown-Biggar. The question and answer are as follows:

May I ask a supplementary question? What steps will the government take to investigate an industry to see if there is actual injury to that industry from competition abroad?

Mr. McCann: The answer to that question is that we have special investigators who are trained in particular lines of industry, and who make these investigations in the country of export.

Will the minister tell the house what steps his department is taking to provide sufficient inspectors to discharge the considerably augmented duties that will now fall upon them under the new bill?

Mr. McCann: I think I told the house the other night that we had taken on 18 additional appraisers who will confine their efforts, for the time being at least, to this particular work.

Mr. Fleming: That is, 18 in addition to the present number?

Mr. McCann: Right here in the city of Ottawa there are about 100 appraisers, and it will depend upon the size of the port. There are more appraisers in places like Toronto and Montreal than there would be in an inland port like Sudbury. It depends a good deal upon the position of the port.

Mr. Fleming: I thought we were not discussing the matter of appraisers at Canadian ports of entry. I thought we were discussing the number of investigators in the country of export; that is what the minister referred to in the passage I read from *Hansard*. Are we to understand that the figure of 18 which he has just mentioned is the augmentation of the staff of investigators operating in the United States?

Mr. McCann: That is right.

Mr. Fleming: They are all in the United States?