

would call attacks—from the other side of the house at different times in connection with strawberry preserves that were sold the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific by Joseph Gobeil, who happens to be my brother. I feel that I must give the house an explanation, which I am sure will satisfy every hon. member that this matter should not have been brought up in the first place. Before doing so, however, let me say that I am proud of that little home industry, without regard to who owns it; I believe there should be an industry such as this in every community and every parish. It happens in this case that the owner was my brother, but would the house suggest for a moment that because he happened to be my brother he had no right to sell preserves to the railways? This is a home product, Mr. Speaker, that is not surpassed anywhere. Every hon. member knows the difference between cultivated and wild strawberries, and the best proof I can give the house as to the quality of the product is the fact that my brother receives orders from as far west as Saskatchewan and British Columbia. When the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) raised this question in the house some two years ago the committee on railways and shipping was sitting. At one of the meetings of that committee I asked Sir Henry Thornton for an explanation, and two or three days later Mr. Vaughan, general purchasing agent of the Canadian National, gave me this statement, which I will read to the house without comment:

In the House of Commons on April 1, Mr. Jean-François Pouliot stated that the Canadian National was charging 25 cents per jar for a while for strawberry preserves made by Jos. Gobeil, when the price for an excellent product put up by E. D. Smith & Son is only 15 cents. Mr. Pouliot said that the Gobeil preserves is a "vicious stuff."

He intimated that the Gobeil preserves are bought through the Stadacona Sales Company of Quebec.

These preserves are made of wild Canadian strawberries, and were first brought to the attention of the general manager of the Canadian National hotel and dining car department in June, 1931. A trial order was placed with Mr. Gobeil on July 7, 1931, for 190 dozen of 3 ounce size at \$1.20 a dozen and distributed to Halifax, Quebec, Montreal and Toronto.

The trial preserves met with considerable favour with the travelling public and were finding a ready sale. It was found, however, that the 3 ounce size was too small to make a proper serving, so the next order placed with Mr. Gobeil on October 23rd, was for 100 dozen of 5 ounce jars at \$1.50 a dozen, which was the price he had originally quoted for the 3 ounce jars. These prices included delivery at Montreal.

On December 4, 1931, another order for 96 dozen of the 5 ounce size was placed.

[Mr. Gobeil.]

There is very little of this stock left, and a fresh supply will not be available until after strawberry picking time about the first of next July.

In Mr. Pouliot's remarks regarding prices, the comparison made is between preserves and jam which are quite different.

The statement was made that the jars used by E. D. Smith & Son are of the same size and shape as those used by J. Gobeil: if that is so, Smith's sample must have been from some very old stock, as the last order given by the dining car department to E. D. Smith & Son for preserves was placed on July, 1925. The order preceding immediately the Gobeil order for strawberry preserves was placed on December 26, 1929, with Canadian Cannery Limited and was put up in 3½ ounce jars.

All jam is put up in 3 ounce jars (government standard) and sold in dining cars at 15 cents a jar. All preserves are put up in 5 ounce jars and sold at 25 cents.

Bids were issued by the Canadian National on March 21, 1931, and on three items, namely strawberry, raspberry or peach preserve the E. D. Smith & Son Company did not quote, their bid reading "Sorry do not pack." The only quotations on these items were by Canadian Cannery Limited at \$1.40 a dozen and Wagstaffe Limited \$1.28 per dozen. These quotations were for cultivated strawberries which do not compare in flavour with wild strawberries.

The price submitted by E. D. Smith & Son on strawberry and raspberry jam in the bid referred to was 15 cents a dozen more than one submitted by the Old City Manufacturing Company of Quebec who are supplying Canadian National requirements.

Many favourable comments have reached the dining car department regarding this wild strawberry preserve. One gentleman remarked that it is the best jam or preserve featured by the railway. The product is a good seller and many patrons of dining cars have asked where the product could be bought for their homes. There have been no complaints.

The product was submitted to Milton & Hersey & Company (chemists) for analysis. The report was as follows:

"We have completed the analysis of sample of wild strawberry preserve with the following results:

Weight of contents	4.2 oz.
Water	35.2 %
Per cent of sugar	21.1 %
Fruit substance	43.7 %"

This material consists solely of wild strawberries, without the addition of any other fruit or fruit substance. It has a good flavour and is well made. The weight is a little greater than that claimed.

The orders for the preserves were made direct with Joseph Gobeil, and not through the Stadacona Sales Company.

I must apologize for taking up the time of the house in reading this statement, but I feel sure hon. members will realize that I had to read it in view, as I said before, of repeated insinuations. As long as those inferences were made by the hon. member for Temiscouata only I did not object very much to them; I was even pleased at the free adver-