

if I am spared and it is my privilege to preside over this department, it is my intention to bring this measure up again because I think there are strong reasons in its favour.

Motion agreed to.

On section 2,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We have in every large city, and in some smaller ones, official inspectors, but as inspection is not now compulsory, certain individuals assume the privilege of inspecting, especially in case of fish, and take it upon themselves to mark the quality as first, second, third, and so forth, to the great detriment of honest traders, and of those who suppose, when they see those marks, that they are official marks upon which they can rely. In order to prevent that, I am asking the committee to allow me to devise means by which every certificate of inspection, as well as every mark and every stamp of inspection, shall bear such an official character as can be given to it, by the presence of a crown and the initials of the Queen, for instance, and there is a penalty provided for imitating those marks. I have become convinced that, until we can restore compulsory inspection, there must be some official marks to enlighten the public so that they may know that an article has really been inspected by an official inspector. When it is remembered that the official inspectors are only appointed after having passed an examination before the board of examiners qualified in the different branches of trade, to which the examination is applied, one can see that there is a real value to be attached to their inspection. The Bill had provided for a penalty of \$1,000.

Mr. DAVIN. That is too large.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I agree it is far too large, and I propose, in the last line but one, to strike out the words to the end of the clause, and to substitute the following words: "The penalty provided for by section 21 of said Act for each such offence." That penalty is \$40, which I think is sufficient.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No doubt the object which the hon. gentleman desires to attain by the last portion of this section, is a very worthy one, but I would venture to suggest to him that it might not answer the purpose for which it is intended. The object, so far as I understand, is to prevent people from being misled by marks which purport to be official marks. The last clause of this Bill only provides a penalty in case particular marks, that is to say, the official marks, are counterfeited; but it would be quite possible for persons to put on marks not being official marks, but being of such a character as to mislead. If packed in barrels and sent to foreign countries with marks of that character, the same injurious results

might follow as prevail at the present time. I suggest, therefore, that the scope of the latter part of the section should be widened, if the hon. gentleman desires to remove any evil.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.

If exporters really want to have inspection marks of any value, this result can only be attained by adopting a set of official marks with the Crown and "V. R." as indicating that the goods have been inspected by official authority. When exporters and dealers are informed that all goods officially inspected must bear the marks of the Crown and the initials of Her Majesty, that will in a large degree prevent promiscuous inspection which every exporter considers he is entitled to carry on. It is very difficult to pass a law prohibiting a manufacturer from marking his goods No. 1, 2 or 3 on the barrel or package. But I want intelligent people, especially those in the trade, to learn what the official marks are, and then they will understand whether the goods have been officially inspected or not, and if the packages are not stamped with the Crown and V. R., as required under the Bill, people will soon learn that the goods have not been inspected by the official inspectors.

Mr. COSTIGAN. The question of compulsory examination is one that has evidently received very careful attention from the Minister of Inland Revenue. I am very glad he has taken the position of postponing compulsory inspection, at all events until next year. He will require very full and reliable information before he asks Parliament to deal with this subject in that manner, although he may prove correct in coming to the conclusion that compulsory inspection is desirable. I have had some experience on this subject. During my administration of that department we had to change the law. We had to change the inspection on some articles from compulsory to voluntary. We found that the system worked best with voluntary inspection. Where we adopted compulsory inspection and arranged to pay fees for such inspection, we found the inspector in many cases looked upon his office as a revenue-producing office, and he was in many cases careless as regards the inspection he made, and was most interested in collecting the fees. The result was that it was a tax on the public for which they received no benefit. There was really no bona fide inspection. The view then taken by the department was that if the inspection were made voluntary and proper machinery were supplied for carrying it out, it would be to the interest of the inspector to make a satisfactory inspection and show that it was of some value to the trade. The hon. gentleman in providing for special marks has taken a step in the right direction; and I think the law will work well in that respect. When the public know

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