

that there are certain portions of the trade which might be affected if the Act came into force at once. I believe that some of the canneries have labels already printed which would be interfered with by the coming into force of this Act. However, during the coming season, the trade needs to be protected by the provisions of this Act. I instanced this afternoon the case of a meat exporter who is waiting and who cannot fill an order because there is no machinery by which a certificate can be given, and if the Act does not come into force soon that exporter will have to wait until it does. I would therefore suggest that we should, instead of giving a date here, leave it to come into force when assented to subject to the provision that:—

The Governor in Council may suspend the operation of any section of the Act for any time found necessary not more than until the first of January next.

That is to say, that if the trade requires the suspension of certain provisions of the Act to be prolonged until the first of January next, the Governor in Council may issue an order to that effect, but the general provisions of the Act come into force upon assent being given to the Act. If that meets with the approval of the committee, I could almost at once draw up a clause to that effect. I think that it meets the objections which have been suggested to me that certain portions of the trade, at all events, have already made preparations for the coming season, which preparations might be disturbed by this Act, and yet it is desirable that the provisions of the Act, which are looked for and longed for by certain other parts of the trade, shall come into force upon assent being given to the Act. I would have preferred, if it had been feasible, to have had the whole Act come into force at once without any reserve, but knowing that some of the canneries have made provision for their next season's trade, which the operation of this Act might interfere with, I would like to be allowed to retain for the government the power of suspending certain sections of the Act for a period not later than the 1st of January, because that, I think, will be quite time for the whole Act, without reserve, to come into force.

Mr. LANCASTER. Does the hon. minister propose to strike out section 28 as printed?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. LANCASTER. If he were going to leave it there, I would suggest that he make it 2907 instead of 1907, because a thousand years hence will be plenty of time for this Act to come into operation.

Mr. E. D. SMITH. I might suggest that the date for bringing into operation certain sections of the Act, especially that re-

ferring to the labels, might be extended a little further. Labels are bought in large quantities, sometimes enough for two years. Perhaps one-half or one-quarter of them are carried over to another year.

Mr. FISHER. That is what I had in view.

Mr. E. D. SMITH. One year would not cover the case, I think, in regard to labels.

Mr. FISHER. I think it would cover pretty nearly the whole of it. It might be that in a few cases all the labels would not be used.

Mr. E. D. SMITH. The labels are bought in large quantities, perhaps as many as from \$1,000 to \$3,000 worth at a time, and it might be that several hundred dollars' worth of these labels could not be used.

Mr. BLAIN. There would be no objection to using the labels for local trade that I could see.

Mr. FISHER. No; there would not be.

Mr. BLAIN. The Act would apply to any export trade they might be engaged in, and therefore the labels that were printed could be used in the local trade.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The Minister of Agriculture moves that the following section be added:

The Governor in Council may suspend the coming into force of any of the sections of this Act up to the 1st of January next.

Mr. SPROULE. Does not that seem rather a strange method of dealing with a statute after it has been passed? The government may suspend it. You first let it be assented to, and it practically becomes law. Then you say that you may suspend the putting into force of any portion of this Act. You may suspend the action of this law, but that does not suspend it from coming into force, because the act of the Governor in Council brings it into force. It seems rather a strange course to pursue to give the government power to suspend a portion of any Act after it has become law.

Mr. FISHER. If the words 'operation of' were inserted, would that be satisfactory?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes, I think it would require that; but it seems rather a strange precedent to establish. I do not know whether there is any similar power given, except, it may be, in connection with the Customs Act.

Mr. FISHER. If it were not for that particular reason in regard to labels, I would not suggest anything of the kind, but that representation has been made to me, and I thought it was well not to interfere with the trade any more than is necessary.