

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Just why? The minister has said he is in favour of this and would like to have it done.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Surely.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): He says difficulties may arise. What are they?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Constitutional difficulties.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What constitutional difficulties?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not know.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): This is the first time I have ever heard of constitutional difficulties in the way of requiring our importers to stamp the country of origin on their goods.

Mr. FRASER: The minister need not be so fearful about statutory authority in this case, because other ministers proceed to make all kinds of regulations and orders in council without any statutory authority at all.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Order.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: When the same question arose with regard to the inspection and grading of farm products for home consumption, we found we had to get what is called concurrent legislation. It took us six years to bring that about. That applies now to all products for home consumption under the Farm Products Act. The provinces do not like this sort of legislation very much; they feel that it is an invasion of their legislative domain.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think that is imaginative.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The western provinces came through quickly, but some of the provinces down here were reluctant. Without a popular demand I hesitate to try this out in regard to butter. This concurrent legislation does not include butter. It does include eggs and the live stock yards, and it does include the grading of all things for export. The concurrent legislation is necessary to cover all things for home consumption but it is not necessary as regards exports.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I can see where constitutional difficulties might arise in the stamping of domestic goods in the provinces, but surely the federal government has complete control in the matter of regulations governing the entry of foreign goods.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have no law of that nature under our department but I can assure my hon. friend and the committee generally that personally I am in favour of it. I am in favour of having the same law that is on the statutes of Great Britain, that is, the British Merchandise Marks Act. I should like to have a similar law invoked in Canada and applied wherever practicable and desirable.

Mr. SPENCER: Will the minister promise to introduce legislation along this line next year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: With respect to hay, I have legislation which has been lying in cold storage since last year, and I have legislation also with respect to maple products, for which a great many people in eastern Ontario and Quebec are anxious. I will seek an opportunity at another session to place that legislation before the house and I hope I shall have then the same buoyant support which the proposal seems to be receiving now.

Mr. FANSHER (Last Mountain): The minister speaks of constitutional difficulties. May I ask him whether he is referring to the Canadian constitution or to the constitution of the cabinet?

Mr. ROWE: It seems to me that the minister is merely splitting hairs on this question. The government have passed a good many orders in council and made regulations covering far greater scope than this mere detail of bringing butter under the regulations that now exist with respect to eggs and other products for home consumption. They have camouflaged the real situation. There are 25,000,000 pounds of butter coming into this country every year, which the people do not know. The minister takes a side glance in the direction of some of his free trade friends in the cabinet—because now I believe he is a protectionist—to see whether the suggestion which has been made is satisfactory to them. At first when the hon. member for Bow River mentioned it the minister said he would bring in a regulation; but, as I say, taking a side glance at his colleagues, he believed it might be dangerous to reveal to the people of Canada the quantities of dairy products that are coming into this country. It is my personal belief that the government are desirous of keeping from the public the knowledge of how much dairy butter is coming into Canada. The minister says that wherever practicable or desirable the British Merchandise Marks Act could be put into effect here. Well, I suggest that it