

large surplus of good butter, and the question of whether permission should be given for placing that surplus on eastern markets which formerly would have been open to it will depend largely upon the judgment of a board to which authority is granted under this measure. I mention this simply by way of throwing some light on the matter. I am far from saying that the best interests of Canada would not be served by the bill, but I should like some further information on it.

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: This bill has nothing to do with the law passed in 1934, to which my honourable friend refers. The object of the bill is to enable provincial organizations to join together for regulating the marketing of agricultural products. In parts of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, let us say, potatoes may be selling at a dollar per bag, and in other parts of the same provinces at 90 cents, whereas in Quebec the price may be 75 cents. It is not in the best interests of the farmers that there should be this difference. The bill would not give the government control over any agricultural product; it would simply enable the Governor in Council to authorize provincial boards to regulate the marketing of their products in any part of the country. These boards are provincial organizations, representing producers, and under the bill they may agree on standards and prices for their commodities.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Does my honourable friend suggest that this contemplates the fixing of standard prices for agricultural products throughout Canada? Would the boards be able to set a Dominion-wide price for a certain grade of maple sugar, for example?

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: The producers are the people who should fix the prices of their products.

Hon. Gustave Lacasse: Honourable senators, I was late in coming into the Chamber, for which I apologize, and I am not sure whether what I am about to say is within the subject-matter under discussion; but there is a point that I have wanted to raise for a long time, and I believe this is the time to do it. We all recall that two or three years ago parliament passed a law requiring foods sold to the public to be of the same quality as advertised or described. I wish particularly to call attention to the quality of maple products served in restaurants. I challenge any member of this house who takes meals at public eating places in Ottawa, or elsewhere in this province, to say that he can be sure of getting pure maple syrup, as advertised on restaurant menus. What one gets when he orders maple syrup is a

concoction that is almost poisonous. No one who knows what good maple syrup is should allow himself to be imposed upon in this way. This sort of thing happens in our capital city, in the very shadow of the Parliament Buildings. I believe laws are made to be enforced. Otherwise why put them on our statute books?

My reason for raising this question is that I should like the pure foods division of the Department of National Health to inquire into the matter and take whatever steps are necessary to see that the laws are enforced. Further, the loyal and honest producer must be protected. For instance, people come here from abroad, having heard of genuine maple syrup produced on Canadian farms; but when they eat the concoctions that are sold for maple syrup they get the impression that the goods are not as advertised. I think such experiences are detrimental to Canadian producers generally. When I want to eat a poor substitute for maple syrup I go to the Pacific coast, where they put almost everything into their concoctions; but when I visit Quebec I expect to get the genuine product, especially when there is on our federal statute books a law requiring that no food product shall be sold under false pretences.

I appeal to whoever is in authority to see that the laws passed by this parliament respecting the manufacture of food products are enforced.

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: I say to my friend that I hope the maple producers in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec will get together in putting their product on the market, and make sure that it is genuine.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, I shall detain the house only a few moments to offer a small contribution to the discussion. As the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) has said, this measure is of the nature of enabling legislation, but even then it has to be interpreted in a rather broad fashion. The proposals simply confer upon the Governor in Council the power to give privileges to provincial marketing boards beyond the boundaries of their provinces. I have no objection to the measure, but I believe that it is an instance where the administration of the law requires a good deal of care. The key words in subsection 1 of section 2 are, "to regulate the marketing of such agricultural product outside the province . . .". British Columbia, for instance, has a Fruit Marketing Board, the powers of which, I think, are very wide.

Hon. Mr. Haig: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: The board practically controls the marketing of fruit within the province. If such a board applies to the