

we send out. That is much more satisfactory. But the difficulty is this that there are a great many factories which pack a very small quantity and which have not the capital as a rule to carry on the business of exporting. Consequently they have to apply to some one in that particular line of business who does export the goods, and I do not think it would be very satisfactory if the names of the small packers had to be labelled on each can. I may say that the large packers safeguard themselves in this way. They have a private mark on every box packed by small canners, so that they can trace the goods after they go abroad. I have to my mind's eye at present a shipment of canned lobsters which turned out very unsatisfactory, and which is at present in Buenos Ayres, South America. Of course in spite of the closest oversight, mistakes will sometimes happen, and these goods were shipped in ignorance of the fact that they were not of the standard brand, but I hardly think that the arrangement to have an inspector go around these factories and exercise a general supervision would get over that difficulty. What I want particularly however to remind the Minister of Agriculture is the hardship in which his Bill would place the lobster packers who export their goods. The custom of the trade is to send the tins to foreign countries unlabelled, the buyer putting his own label on them, on the understanding that the seller will take the goods off the buyer's hands if they are not satisfactory. This Bill would revolutionize that way of doing business and would not suit the small packer who packs fifty or a hundred cases of lobsters, of which there are very many on the coast. On the coast of New Brunswick there are about fifty canners and many more on the coast of Nova Scotia. But our friends, Robert Simpson & Company, of Halifax, are perhaps the largest exporters to Europe of canned lobsters in the Dominion. And the extract from the letter I have just read is an expression of their views.

Mr. FISHER. I am rather surprised at the statement. Although I have no practical experience in the shipment of fish products, I have had a good deal to do with the shipment of fruit and dairy products, and in that business the practice is growing of putting the names of the shippers on the goods. A long time ago Canadians were ashamed of their goods and even, in many cases, of their country, and were quite ready to aid and abet English people in passing off Canadian goods as American or English. And frequently no doubt, in the early stages of our development, that may have contributed to the palming off of Canadian goods for those of other countries, which were better in a general way, and thus may have redounded for the moment to the advantage of a few Canadian produ-

cers. But as our people have been developing our trade and production and have been able to show, as they now can, that they produce the very best quality of goods procurable anywhere, they have adopted the other procedure and are carefully advertising their own firm and the name of Canada, and the more we do that, the better for our own interests. I can speak with some knowledge as to the dairy trade and the fruit trade, and I venture to say that just so soon as Canadians began to put their own names and marks on their packages, the appreciation in foreign markets of Canadian products has improved and our profits have increased. I did not know that the fish trade of Canada had not advanced to that point and am sorry to hear it has not. I believe, though perhaps with no great knowledge of the question, that our Canadian canned fish and lobsters are as good as those of any other country, and that if they are put on the markets of the world as Canadian, bearing the names of the packers, that will enhance their reputation and the credit of their country. I can quite understand that the Germans, the French or the English would like to get hold of Canadian canned lobsters and label them as their own and get the credit of their good quality, but I do not think that redounds to the advantage of the Canadian canner of lobsters and fish any more than it used to redound to the advantage of the Canadian butter maker to have his product passed off in England as Danish butter or his cheese sold as American cheese. It was not until we began to insist on Canadian Cheddar being marked Canadian Cheddar and sold as that that we secured that reputation which we have to-day by reason of which Canadian Cheddar sells as high as English Cheddar on that market. This I think is true in other products and I am sorry to find that any people in Canada are to-day thinking of allowing their goods to be sold as anything else but their own products and as coming from Canada. I am not prepared to speak with authority on the fish trade, I know very little about it and I cannot say, it may be still in that state of infancy but I hardly think it requires that, and I should be sorry to find that that is the case. I appreciate however that when it is in that state of infancy there is a period of struggle through which it or any other trade must come, in order to reach the point that some of our other trades in Canada have reached and as a matter of personal opinion, given with all due deference and humility as I do not know much about the trade, I think the sooner the infant takes upon itself the responsibility of manhood, the sooner that manhood will be recognized abroad with consequent profit to the Canadian shipper. I do not mean to insist and if any means can be arranged by which we can avoid that difficulty I will be very glad to do it.