

fact that, if this Bill goes through in its present form, it is, in my judgment, going to necessitate the destruction of tens of thousands of milk bottles throughout the country, because those milk bottles are not as a rule stamped with the name of the man who uses them. They are supplied in huge quantities. Some of them have just the quantity marked on them, such as quart, pint or half-pint, and they are used interchangeably for milk or cream. There are thousands of bottles that do not have on them the name of the man using them, and those bottles will all have to be destroyed. Some exception should, therefore, be made in regard to milk. I cannot speak in regard to other articles, because I do not know as to them. It can hardly be the intention of the department to require, from one end of the country to the other, the destruction of all the milk bottles in use, and there could not be a more unfortunate time than this for such a regulation, because as glass is scarce and the price is increasing, this would mean a substantial increase in the cost of milk to the consumer. The cost of milk is high enough now.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS: The hon. member will note that, with regard to milk, a little pasteboard cover, with the name of the dairy company and the quantity on it, is put into the top of the bottle.

Mr. BUREAU: That is not part of the container; you throw that away.

Mr. HALLADAY: That applies to larger cities and towns, not to the rural districts.

Mr. ROBB: The minister intimated that he had a number of amendments. He should read those amendments so that we may know what they are. That would facilitate the passage of the Bill.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I have read them.

Mr. ROBB: The minister must, sometimes, become a little annoyed at the staff of his department, because every time he brings in a Bill, we have to proceed to mutilate it, and when it passes this House, it is scarcely recognizable as being related to the Bill introduced.

Mr. JOSEPH READ: Does the heading "fresh food and vegetables" include potatoes? Potatoes are put up, in Canada, in eighty or ninety pound bags, and, in the United States, in 100 pound bags.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That is included in the Act itself, and is one of the exceptions. It is not the intention that

this legislation should apply to sales of milk as they are carried on in country places or in towns. A man comes in with a can and he goes around and supplies his customers with milk from that can. Another man supplies his customers with milk in bottles. It is not intended to apply this Act to transactions of that kind. An amendment may have to be made expressly to exempt certain lines of that kind. We can make that later. As regards the taking out of use of cartons and packages, the Act is not to come into force immediately. Time is given so that those changes can adapt themselves gradually without destroying either cartons that are in use or packages which have already come into the trade.

Mr. BOYCE: Is any change to be made in regard to milk bottles?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It is not the intention of the Act to interfere with the customary system now prevailing.

Mr. BOYCE: If it did, it would create a great hardship.

Mr. KAY: Is it the intention that this legislation shall apply to milk dealers in cities?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: In that respect there would be no difficulty in making an amendment which would effectually protect that business.

Mr. SEXSMITH: I can easily understand how the objection raised by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Nickle) can be got over. The dealer or seller can have his name and so forth put on the pasteboard cover that is put into the mouth of the bottle, and some already do that. All such matters, however, tend to increase the price of milk. This winter I was speaking to a milk dealer who supplies some 300 or 400 bottles of milk a day to a village. I asked him if the war affected his business. At that time he had on hand boxes containing one or two hundred bottles. He told me that the bottles themselves practically doubled in price, but he said: This is where the war has affected me; this little bit of pasteboard has gone up in price over 600 per cent. If the Government is going to make regulations so that that piece of pasteboard will have to pass through a printing press so as to have printed on it the name of the dealer and the quantity of milk contained in the bottle, that is going to increase the price still further. This man who has thirty or forty cows and who is by himself, as both