

Mr. TURNBULL: An examination of all the sections of part II will indicate that the original intention of the bill was to have this part apply only to regulated products. Every section except the one in question refers to regulated products. In this one, by a slip, the word "natural" is used instead of the word "regulated." If we are going to change the policy of investigating only regulated products, which was the original intention of the bill, as one can judge from the other sections, to a policy of investigating every natural product under the act, then we shall have to amend every other section, changing "regulated" to "natural" products, because the term "spread" is defined to be a charge made by a person for selling a regulated product. Suppose you leave section 16 the way it is—that the minister may appoint a committee to investigate any spread in natural products: when you come to section 17 the result will be an investigation that provides for action only in connection with regulated products, and if you follow the other sections out later on you will find that the whole purpose of the part was to deal with regulated products and not with natural products that are not regulated. So that it becomes a question whether you will change the word "natural" to "regulated" in section 16, restricting the investigation to what was apparently the original intention of the bill, or whether you will widen your policy to provide for investigation into every natural product.

I fancy there is provision in other acts for an investigation under certain circumstances, in connection with combines and trusts, and if it is desired to have investigations into matters not covered by this bill in the way it is drawn, other bills might be passed for the purpose. But for the moment the investigation in part II is plainly intended to apply only to regulated products, and the use of the words "natural product" in section 16 is a typographical error, which can be left as it is only if you are going to widen the whole process of the bill to apply to all natural products.

Mr. HEAPS: It seems to me that an error of this kind is too important to have crept in accidentally. The typographical error may have been in those sections where "regulated" is used instead of "natural." Many of us have been and are at this moment under the impression that the bill was much wider in its scope—

Mr. TURNBULL: The number of instances in which "regulated" is used in the bill would indicate that the mistake was in the use of the word "natural."

Mr. HEAPS: It seems to me that there must have been the intention somewhere to use the word "natural" instead of the word "regulated," because there is such a vast difference in meaning between the two terms. I can see that under the present provisions of the bill, if the word "regulated" appears all the way through, as suggested, the application of the act may be of such minor importance as to be of extremely little value to the farming community of Canada. Before a natural product can be regulated there must be a scheme upon which the majority in the district must vote, and it must be approved by different bodies and then by the minister in charge; and when you have two or three schemes in operation there may be certain forms of dairy products coming under the regulations, and these would be the only commodities in regard to which there could be any investigation so far as parliament is concerned. If this is to be the situation, then it seems to me that the boon which this measure promises to the farming community will be insignificant. In other words, the mountain will have laboured only to bring forth a mouse.

I have been extremely anxious to support a worth while measure which would provide for a real regulation of basic products, but it is hardly worth while spending two or three weeks of the time of parliament in the discussion of this bill if the result is to be that only one or two things produced on the farm will come under its provisions. It is difficult to get the farmers to organize in so far as certain lines of their products are affected; and when the bill is restricted, as is now suggested, using the term "regulated" instead of the term "natural," I submit that the benefit is out of all proportion to the time and labour spent on this measure.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We are apt to get into great difficulty if we attempt at this point to enlarge the scope of the measure. It was not intended as a measure which would afford a general inquiry into spreads and the like in regard to all natural products. It is in its inception a scheme to produce in Canada something in the way of order in relation to our products, and it prescribes that certain products shall be regulated in the manner set out in the bill.

As regards part II, there is no doubt, when one reads the bill, that the intention of applying it only to regulated products was carried out by the draftsman; but unfortunately in one instance, in section 16, he used the word "natural" instead of "regulated," because in nine other places in part II—and there are only three or four sections—you will find the words