

As every honourable gentleman knows, cement is sold in Canada at 87½ pounds to the bag, and the American weight, from which I presume this clause is copied, is 94 pounds. Now, if the farmers, by this legislation, were going to get 94 pounds of cement instead of 87½ I should vote for this Bill and tell them to be careful about their cordwood and the other requirements of this Bill which would, in my opinion, impose hardship upon them; but I have not faith enough in the cement manufacturers or dealers to believe that they will give 94 pounds of cement instead of 87½, just because Parliament declares that 94 pounds shall be put into a bag. The bags now in use in this country, and in the hands of all the dealers from one end of Canada to the other, contain 87½ pounds. These bags were made up, and the wholesale dealers and the cement manufacturers have paid for them because they were of the size prescribed by the law of the country. And now, forsooth, Parliament would declare, "You must put 94 pounds of cement into every bag," though the bag will hold only 87½ pounds. I understand that at one time there was a clause in this Bill which has been struck out of this Bill but which prohibited the hens of this country from laying small eggs; that there was criticism of the small size of some eggs, and the farmers and the hens were going to be compelled to produce an article of superior character. I fail to see that there is more consistency in the clause which was left in than in the old clause which was struck out in the lower House.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: The National Policy increased the size of eggs.

Hon. Mr. FOSTER: The weight of 87½ pounds of cement has been used in this country as the basis in manufacturing cement bags. It is well known that in mixing cement for roads, sidewalks, barns, etc., the proportions are one part of cement, three parts of sand and five parts of stone. That is to say, 87½ pounds of loose cement is as nearly a cubic foot as any weight can possibly be. The farmers of this country have used cement so long, and are so accustomed to the quantities that have been stipulated to them in connection with the mixing of cement, that it seems to me it is a mistake for us to require them to readjust their figures, when, as they know perfectly well, they will have to pay for the increased size of bag an additional price. Moreover, every honourable gentlemen in

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this House who has used cement knows that when the cement is being delivered by the manufacturer, a certain amount of cement sifts through the bag when it is loaded on the wagon. It is landed in a warehouse, and in being re-handled more cement sifts through the bag. It goes to the retailer in the country, and from him to the farmer. The farmer throws it on the ground, and more cement gets through the bag. Somebody, without having any just cause of complaint, may find that through careless handling there is a bag or bags short of the amount called for by this Bill, and some one would get into trouble.

These arguments which I have put before this honourable House will, I am quite sure, satisfy honourable senators that, while at some future time such a Bill may be considered in the public interest, we are not to-day in a position—we have not the necessary information—to enable us to apply to this Bill that intelligent opinion which we should have after conferences with the people whom we represent, and after giving it careful consideration ourselves. I suggest to my honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) that he ought not to insist upon the enactment of this measure, in view of the position which I have described as that which the farmers of this country will take. The Bill would, among other things, compel every farmer in this country, in order to comply with its conditions, to provide himself with a scale, if he has none at present. There are hundreds and thousands of farmers in this country who have not a scale on their premises. Honourable gentlemen may say they should have one, and I presume they should; but this is no time to put additional burdens on them in this respect. It is true also that there are many thousands of farmers whose scales are not perhaps adjusted with that degree of accuracy with which they should be, or in ordinary times would be; but, in addition to the other arguments, I respectfully submit to the honourable leader of the House that no serious harm can result from following the suggestion offered yesterday by the honourable leader of the Opposition, in which I concur.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Do I understand that the honourable member reads this Bill as meaning that every farmer who brings to the market, meats, vegetables, eggs and other produce, must bring them in a closed container or receptacle, and is not at liberty to bring them in and sell