

*Meat and Canned Foods*

Mr. LEWIS: I have seen cans with the lids stamped.

Mr. DUFF: I mean with the name of the packer.

Mr. LEWIS: Just two or three letters.

Mr. HATFIELD: These cans are imported into our country in carloads, and distributed to the various canners throughout the district. So it would be virtually impossible to have any mark whatever put on the cans at the factory where they are made.

Mr. LEWIS: I was asked a moment ago if I know of any cans that are being stamped. I think I could mention half a dozen tobacco cans that have the lids stamped with the firm's name. I think that could be done here.

Mr. BROWN: It looks as if there is room here for the operation of someone's inventive genius. I do not see why it should not be possible to devise some indestructible mark that could be registered and that would be removed by the action of boiling water.

Mr. LAPOINTE: This bill applies only to the fishing industry. Any such change as my hon. friend has suggested would have to be made to the whole act and applied to all canned goods.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Lapointe thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 150, to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Lapointe the bill was read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

On section 1:

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I think the minister should give the committee some information with regard to this matter. Why are such careful regulations provided in regard to food for export while nothing is provided in regard to food consumed in Canada?

Mr. LAPOINTE: These provisions apply as well to food for Canadian consumption. This clause is a mere repetition of the former clause, with the addition of the word "shellfish".

Mr. SUTHERLAND: But it applies to food for export?

[M. Duff.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: This clause relates more particularly to export goods.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Altogether.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The last part of it does.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): Can the canning of fish be carried on by persons who have not taken out a license?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): What happens if it is done?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The goods are seized and the further carrying on of the business without a license prevented.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): When a license is issued to a tobacco factory a number is assigned and the cans have to bear that number. Why not apply the same principle in this case, so that when the label is gone the place where the goods were put up can be traced by the number on the can? That would afford some protection to the public; as it is now, once the label disappears a whole family could be poisoned and there would be no recourse.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That suggestion has already been carefully considered by those interested in the industry and by the officers of the department. There is much to be said in favour of it, but there are difficulties to be overcome, and so far it has not been found advisable to adopt the plan.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the minister would be well advised not to seek to go on with the committee work on this bill to-day. The bill is evidently fresh from the press and we have not had opportunity to consider it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I have no desire to press the matter. If there is objection, I will move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would point out that the resolution that forms the basis of the bill is in the name of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; the bill as printed is in the name of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is a mistake in the first printing. It will be corrected before the bill comes up again.

Section stands.

Progress reported.