

ket; but for years past they have had to suffer from the malignant industry of some people who adulterate these articles. As I stated a moment ago, the adulteration of food is one of the evils of the present day. It is to be found not only in maple sugar and maple syrup, but in almost everything. Now, the object of the law and the object of the Government ought to be to prevent adulteration, and to see that no food comes on the table unless it is what it purports to be. There are parties who make some compound of maple sugar and of maple syrup, but that is not in the interest of public health. It is injurious to health, and certainly injurious to the genuine article. This question came before the House last year, and it has several times been before the House and the country. A delegation of the makers of maple sugar came before the Committee of Agriculture last year, and as a result of their representations and the deliberation of the Government upon them the present Adulteration Act was passed. But steps are now to be taken to make that law ineffective. That is the objection which the makers of maple sugar and maple syrup have to this Bill, and it is an objection worthy of consideration by this Government. The makers have given this matter their very best thought, and decided that there should be no adulteration at all of the articles they produce. That is the sum total of their objection. They object to this legislation because it allows an adulteration which is altogether objectionable.

Mr. MARCIL: As a constant user of maple sugar and maple syrup I must give my own experience. It is the most difficult thing in the world to obtain the genuine article to-day. If you go into any high-class grocery store in Montreal or any other city you have to accept the salesman's word that what you are getting is genuine maple sugar or maple syrup. It has been only within the last ten or fifteen years that the maple groves have been getting scarce in the province of Quebec. I am not so familiar with Ontario, so I will not speak about that. When they began to disappear, it was felt that there was a need for a substitute, and a way was found of getting up an artistic imitation on which the word "compound" was hidden away somewhere, and the word "maple" put in a conspicuous place. It is most difficult to obtain the genuine article to-day.

[Sir Wilfrid Laurier.]

The Minister of Justice, who comes from the province of Quebec, knows the high value that is placed upon the industry. It is essentially a national industry, and is unique in this respect. Therefore it should be safeguarded in every possible way. No adulteration of any kind should be permitted.

Mr. MORRIS: This is a question which interests me to a very considerable extent. I think the legislation which was passed last year was very acceptable to the sugar makers of the district from which I come. I do not think that the sugar makers of our district would have any objection to any company manufacturing any syrups they desired to produce; but, as one coming from a district which is very much interested in the manufacture of sugar, I very much object to any company borrowing the name "maple." Maple sugar is one of the best and most wholesome products of our country. The industry is a very important one, and I feel it is the duty of this Government to protect it. The object of the farmers who came here last year was simply to protect that industry. They did not want to borrow anything from any other industry; they simply wanted to protect an honest industry, and I think it is the duty of this Government to do right by these people.

Mr. G. BOYER (Vaudreuil) (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I congratulate sincerely the Minister of Inland Revenue for introducing to-day this legislation which has been for a long time expected and the need of which has been felt also for a long time. His predecessor, at the last session, introduced a Bill, on which, if I am not mistaken, this one is an improvement. I take this opportunity also of expressing my thanks to the minister and his officers who have made it easy for me to secure interviews for the purpose of discussing the Bill.

It is not therefore, Mr. Chairman, believe me, with a critical disposition, that I rise now, but only to ask that it be finally retouched so as to be made for the present entirely effective and satisfactory both to those to whom it applies, many of whom are electors of mine, and to myself.

The maple sugar industry, must be placed on the same footing as all the other agricultural industries, and really it is due to the general ignorance of its great possibilities if it has been heretofore neglected. Up to the present time the farmer has manufactured maple syrup and sugar solely for his fam-