

Mr. CALDWELL: Does the minister say that peanuts do not grow the same way as potatoes? I would like to correct him on that. I am surprised to find one vegetable that the minister does not know about. The law permits them to sell by measure to weigh so much. I think the minister is confusing the matter by allowing both measure and weight. I do not think the clause has any force. I think if he sticks to sixty pounds to the bushel he is on safe ground. If a grower or dealer sells any part of a bushel the proportionate weight should be maintained; a quarter of a bushel must weigh fifteen pounds. I am not objecting to this clause, but I think there will be confusion.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If the hon. member is not objecting, then let it go through.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think the confusion pointed out by the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton is very plain and the bill is wrongly entitled. What really we are doing here in this bill is to say that fifteen pounds can be called a peck. We are saying that you can sell fifteen pounds of potatoes in a peck measure so long as the potatoes are packed so as to weigh fifteen pounds. If the resolution were given effect to in the way the minister introduces it, there would be no change in the law, except that we are calling fifteen pounds a peck. But as a matter of fact that will never happen at all. You might as well strike out the provision as to weight and say potatoes can be sold by measure. It is idle to say that anyone buying by measure is going to bother about weighing the goods afterwards.

Mr. CALDWELL: I remember when the Root and Vegetable Act was passed in 1923, I think it was, we abolished the weight of the bag and the weight of the barrel. Did we also abolish the weight of the bushel?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh, no.

Mr. CALDWELL: It is my impression that we did.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: There is a standard bushel but not a standard bag.

Mr. STEVENS: There was a standard bag at one time.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Not for potatoes that I know of—not all over Canada.

Mr. CALDWELL: If the private conversation going on in the chamber is over, I should like to repeat my question. Was the standard bushel abolished in 1923?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No.

Mr. CALDWELL: If the standard bushel was not abolished I cannot see much force in the clause. I think we are making for confusion. If we stick to sixty pounds to the bushel we will work it out all right. If the purchaser gets a gallon he gets seven and a half pounds, and if he gets a bushel he gets sixty pounds.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We are just confirming what we are doing in practice at the present time. The present statutes do not quite confirm the interpretation which we have been putting on the act, and this is to confirm it. I think where an old-established practice has been built up of using a measure, so long as the customer gets what he believes he is buying, it is all right. If you sell by measure without regard to pounds, believe me there is no Irishman in this room who does not know that you can pack the goods in such a way that there will not be a quarter of a bushel in it. There will not be over thirteen pounds in the measure, and that is what we want to avoid.

Paragraph agreed to.

On paragraph (c):

Mr. STEVENS: Are the inspectors under this act a separate group of inspectors for the purpose of administering it?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is the Root and Vegetables Act.

Mr. STEVENS: In the minister's department he has roots and vegetables, and also eggs. Would it be the same inspector for the eggs, for instance?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is called the Root and Vegetable Act, but the same inspector performs both functions.

Mr. STEVENS: But it does not include eggs?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Not in the one branch.

Mr. CALDWELL: I think paragraph (c) is worded exactly like an amendment I moved last year that got its first and second reading and never became law.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think it covers that.

Mr. CALDWELL: It is absolutely necessary.

Paragraph agreed to.

Paragraph (d) agreed to.