

Mr. CASSELMAN: Those regulations are, I understand, applicable only to eggs for export? They will not govern transactions as between local buyers and local shippers? I understand the Food Control Board has made regulations with the view of eliminating the waste in connection with the egg trade; that is, they have regulated the quality of eggs that can be offered for sale, limiting to one per cent the number of stale eggs which can be offered for sale by anyone. Is legislation included in this Bill covering that action of the Food Control Board, and do those regulations govern anything except the export trade?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My hon. friend is asking me somewhat of a double question. He is asking me a question as regards the legislation and regulations which are carried out by the Department of Agriculture. I am not in a position to give him full information in respect to that, but I find here that class I includes fresh gathered eggs which have not been held under artificial refrigeration or subject to artificial preservation, and that all of this is preceded by this sentence:

Eggs for domestic consumption or for export, but not including eggs intended for incubation, shall be classified and graded as follows:

That, I think, gives as full information as I can give in regard to the matter. If my hon. friend has any more questions with regard to that, he must fire them at the Minister of Agriculture and not at me.

Mr. CASSELMAN: I just made the suggestion because the Agricultural Department is apparently regulating the egg trade, and the Food Control Board is also passing regulations with regard to that trade. It would be well if the whole of the legislation in regard to this commodity were embodied in one Act. There is a good deal of confusion in the country over many of these new regulations, and the idea should be to simplify legislation as much as possible so that confusion need not arise. Here are two bodies regulating the same article. The one, I think, governs export, and the other governs transactions locally.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I think they intermingle too, but my hon. friend may rest assured that the Department of Agriculture and the Food Board must be working very closely together. There is also one fact which makes it impossible for us to do by legislation what is done from time to time by the regulations of the Food Board. Your legislation is made, and it is

fixed, and it cannot be changed again until another session comes round, but the circumstances of the war make it necessary for the Food Board to make, from day to day, and from week to week, regulation after regulation with regard to foods, so that it is impossible for them to go on exactly formal lines. I do not want the committee, on my Bill which does not have anything to do with eggs, to get into a discussion on the regulations of the Minister of Agriculture. Cannot we dismiss eggs and go on with the rest of my Bill?

Mr. SEXSMITH: The minister has stirred up some questions about which the House and the country have a right to have some knowledge. Do we understand that the House and the country are not to know anything further about those regulations until they are published in the Canada Gazette, and that it does not matter how radical they may be, the public have to abide by the regulations which the Department of Agriculture has seen fit to make law? I never was and I am not now in favour of leaving too much power in the hands of a department to make regulations.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Hear, hear. Sound doctrine!

Mr. SEXSMITH: It is a great mistake to carry this principle to the extent to which it has been carried in the past. The Department of Agriculture, if they see fit, may say that a dozen eggs shall weigh one pound or two pounds or five pounds, and they may make one hundred different regulations in regard to marketing eggs. Perhaps they may have something to say even as to the eating of eggs. Those regulations become law the minute they are published in the Canada Gazette. Surely the committee has a right to know something about them.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture to give all the necessary information, and again I put in a plea not to be pestered in regard to this business about which I do not know anything from personal administrative knowledge.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: While nobody wants to interfere with the passage of this Bill, the point just brought forward by my hon. friend (Mr. Sexsmith) is worthy of attention. As I understood the Minister of Trade and Commerce, those regulations are now law. They have been published in the Canada Gazette. The Canada Gazette is a paper which is not generally read