

do not think it is a prudent thing for us to say that it shall be decided by the minister or even by the Governor in Council. I rise here to enter my protest against the passage of this Bill in the form in which it is presented to this House. I believe the minister is sincere in trying to make some improvements in regard to the trade, but I think the improvements are not in the right direction, and that he should postpone this legislation for at least another session if the legislation is to be of any value to Canada.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 15, false description,

Mr. FISHER moved to add to section 15 the following :

No package containing any article subject to inspection under this Act shall be marked with any label, brand or mark, which falsely represents the quantity, weight, or contents of such package.

2. No package containing any article subject to inspection under this Act shall be marked with any label, brand or mark, which falsely represents the date when the articles or goods contained therein were packed.

He said : I do not require by the clause any marks of this kind to be put on the package, but if such marks are put on the package they must be true and correct.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 16,

Every person who, not being an inspector, willfully alters, effaces, or obliterates, wholly or partially, or causes to be altered, effaced or obliterated, any mark on any article which has undergone inspection shall incur a penalty of one hundred dollars.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why do you qualify the first 'obliterated' by 'wholly or partially' and not the second? If the words were placed after the second 'obliterate' it would cover them both.

Mr. FISHER. I would move that the clause be amended accordingly.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 18, regulations to be framed by Governor in Council,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I thought that in authorities of this kind it was usual to provide that such orders and regulations should not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Act.

Mr. FISHER. I think that should be put in.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is a very wide power; I would suggest that you put that in after the word 'regulations' in the second line.

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. A. MARTIN.

On section 28, commencement of Act.

Mr. FISHER. I wish to insert the following clause in place of section 28 :—

The administration of any part of this Act may be assigned by the Governor in Council to any minister other than the minister named therein, and in such case the minister to whom such assignment is made shall have the same powers with respect to all the part of the Act to him assigned, as the minister named in said Act.

This is in view of the probability that the administration of this Act, so far as the fisheries are concerned, may be done through the Department of Marine and Fisheries, who have officers already dealing with the inspection of the fisheries.

Mr. PERLEY. I would ask the committee to excuse me while I make a remark about section 5. That gives the minister certain powers that I think ought to be retained by the Governor in Council. I do not think there ought to be power in the hands of any minister of agriculture to authorize persons to go on any man's farm to inspect his pigs and cattle before they are slaughtered. I do not like clause 5 at all, because I do not think that farmers should under any circumstances be subject to have their animals inspected as here provided. I would at least ask the minister to change that clause so that it may only be done on the order of the Governor in Council. If anything extraordinary should happen making it necessary that a farmer's pigs and cattle should be inspected before they are slaughtered, the attention of the Governor in Council should be directed to it.

Mr. FISHER. I did what the hon. gentleman has suggested in all other clauses, but I did not think it prudent to do so in this clause. A case might arise where the inspection of an animal on a farm or in a butcher's shop might be urgently and promptly necessary, as in the case of an outbreak of disease or anything of that kind. Then I think the minister should have the power immediately to authorize an inspection, because in most cases it would be impossible to get an order in council promptly enough.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would it not be worth while to modify it by inserting some such words as these :—

Unless the minister otherwise directs, upon the report of an inspector.

As it is at present, it is a mere arbitrary discretion vested in the minister.

Mr. FISHER. I would be quite willing to do that, make it read 'Upon the report of an inspector.' As to this former section 28, it provided that this Act should come into force when it receives the assent of His Majesty. I think that in general terms the Act should come into force at that time. But at the same time I understand