

The Shepparton Preserving Co. have 70,000 cases, and the Government Pool of last year 210,000 cases lying in London unsold. It is proposed by this year's Pool Commission to pack 550,000 cases, and more this year—

That is, 1924—

—and in view of the stocks lying in England it is intended that the Australian market shall absorb fully 90 per cent of this quantity, in face of last year's consumption of 125,000 cases.

Australia is to be asked then to consume four and half times what she has ever done before, and as all the propaganda in the world will not accomplish this in one year in view of the prices asked, it would appear sound policy on the part of the Government to make strenuous efforts to clear the stocks lying in England in order to make room for further export quantities, unless, of course, they wish to be saddled with a heavy carry-over at the end of the year's operations for an indefinite period.

Please note there is no limitation put on the life of this Pool Commission, which has been formed to dispose of this year's pack, and if it takes three years to sell the stocks they carry on for that time. As they form themselves into a company they naturally have full power of attorney to act as they see fit, without fear of interference from Government circles.

To consume the 550,000 cases of fruits in Australia, a first essential would be a cheap popular price of 1/ per tin, but unfortunately the prices named by the Pool makes it impossible for the retailer taking a normal profit to sell apricots under 1/3, peaches under 1/4, and pears 1/6 per tin.

Grading.—As it is claimed by the canners that the Australian public will not pay an extra price for fancy and choice grades of canned fruits above the price asked for the lower standard grade it has been decided that nearly all the fruit packed this year shall go under the standard grades.

I am reading this just to show that there is a tremendous surplus there. Under the system of the Government giving a bounty to the canner to pack the goods, and then giving him a bounty to export them, enormous quantities are packed there. The surplus, it is said, is sufficient to last them for three years, even though they limit their pack.

Under those conditions, with that canned fruit coming in here at ½ cent a pound, and with the Australian packer getting a rebate equal to ½ cent a pound on the sugar he puts into that, the result will be that the enormous quantities of fruit now lying unsold will come into this country practically without paying any duty. The one-half cent payable will be balanced by the advantage in regard to sugar. So we are having free importation into this country exactly the same as in England, for this enormous quantity of fruit as put up by the Government. Apparently it is being sold in England at a tremendous loss. According to a statement I have here, they are selling it in England 25 per cent more cheaply than in Australia. We shall have some of it coming into this country selling at an enormous loss and competing with the goods of our fruit-growers. The objection I have to this Treaty is chiefly on that score.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.

Hon. Mr. REID: And the freight from Australia to this country is less than on our own goods.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: It is less than the freight to England. They would have an advantage in coming into this market.

Hon. Mr. REID: But if you ship west to Calgary, the freight from your place is more than the freight from Australia.

Schedule II was agreed to.

The preamble and the title were agreed to.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

THIRD READING POSTPONED

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall the Bill be read the third time?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: To-morrow.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: We meet to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It is true, we shall meet to-morrow, but if my honourable friend has no object in asking that this be postponed—

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: I think our haste has been commendable from the standpoint of that side of the House, and we might have a little rest now.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am informed that the Department would be very happy to be able to notify the Australian Government that the Bill has passed the two branches of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. REID: That cannot be done until to-morrow at 12 o'clock anyway.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: We have been pretty nearly a year getting down to this Bill, and Australia has become so used to the delay that 24 hours will not bother it at all.

It was ordered, that the Bill be placed on the Order Paper for third reading to-morrow.

CANADA TEMPERANCE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 209, an Act to amend the Canada Temperance Act.

He said: The object of this Bill is to empower the Provinces that have control of the sale of liquor to prohibit its importation by any private citizen or any export house. As far as I can judge, the Bill is practically a reproduction of the Bill that was before us two years ago:

163. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection two of this section, and notwithstanding the provisions of this or any other Act to the contrary, no person shall import, send, take or transport into any province in