

about 6½ pounds would have to be added. That fact, coupled with the year's grace in the coming into operation of this legislation, will almost entirely avoid the waste of the bags.

Section 360B imposes a penalty. It is proposed to leave that penalty out for the present. Cement, I understand, is bagged by machinery, and it is very difficult, in bagging by machinery, to have the exact weight in each bag; there is sometimes more or sometimes less, so that what will be done by the Bill, if it passes as I propose, is to affirm the principle that cement shall be sold by weight; that the bag shall ultimately contain 94 pounds and that the barrel shall comprise four bags. This is in exact accordance with the conditions and the law in the United States. For a number of years the United States standard bag of cement has been 94 pounds, and the barrel, four bags or 376 pounds. Taken altogether, that is about the best solution we can find for legislation with regard to cement. I, therefore, beg to move the amendments I have stated.

Mr. MORPHY: My information is that the United States standard bag of cement holds 86½ pounds.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That statement, which was made to the department, was thoroughly investigated. I have the Act, and I have also the assurance, obtained by wire just the other day of the department at Washington, that that is the standard; that it is in force, and that there is no intention of putting it out of force.

Mr. MORPHY: Is section 4 to be dropped from the Bill?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. MORPHY: Then I understand it will be lawful for a man having eight or nine thousand sacks on hand to continue using them until they are worn out?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: As long as they are usable.

Mr. MORPHY: The question is one of sale by weight?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes. The manufacturer or dealer will find that, in a great many cases, he can easily get 94 pounds into the bag. If so, he comes up to the measure more quickly.

Mr. THOMAS FOSTER: I wish to represent to the minister on behalf of a number of manufacturers that this legislation will mean a very heavy loss on account of thou-

[Sir George Foster.]

sands of sacks which they have on hand at present. The minister says that, by packing down the cement, you may possibly get 94 pounds into the bag.

I understand that it is not possible to get the quantity of the new standard in the sacks. The old standard was 86½, and the new standard is 94; you are changing from the less to the greater quantity. I do not know that there have been any strong representations, except perhaps from architects and builders, that the standard should be changed. Previously four sacks constituted a barrel but now you have to change the standard of your barrel to meet the difference in the sacks, and that will cause some difficulty until the machinery is set up to turn out the standard-sized barrels. This means considerable to the man manufacturing barrels and to the man manufacturing sacks. The large manufacturer in the West spoke to me about it, and I advised them to have a conference with the minister. Whether they have made representations to him I do not know, but they certainly appeared to have a grievance. It is immaterial to the architect or the builder whether the standard is 87 or 94 pounds, but it is of consequence to the producer who is turning out hundreds of thousands of barrels. We are not so very much concerned about the standard on the other side of the line, because the great majority of the cement we use is our own product, and we should therefore not be guided by the size of the standard sacks or barrels on the American side. I should like to know whether representations have been made to the Government as to the very great loss the manufacturers may sustain.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Perhaps my hon. friend did not catch exactly what I said. These representations were all made on the original clauses of the Bill, and as the Bill then stood it might have been open to the objections my hon. friend has mentioned. But the Bill, after the amendments that I propose are made, meets every difficulty. They can go on using their 87½-pound sacks until their stock runs out. These sacks will wear out after a time, and then they can get the new 94-pound sacks. There is not the slightest tendency here to cause a loss either to the manufacturers or to the sellers on their present holding of sacks.

Mr. BOYCE: I have used a few barrels of cement for a number of years. My experience has been that there will be no