

*Supply—Agriculture*

Mr. SINCLAIR (Wellington): I am advised that a number of creameries buy New Zealand butter, wrap it and sell it as their own. Is this really taking place?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have not heard of it.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Wellington): Then what are they doing with carloads and carloads of New Zealand butter that they are buying?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand from my deputy that if the butter is sent out in wrappers bearing a name, without any indication of the source of origin, it is not a violation of the law; but if designated as Canadian butter when really it is of other origin, that is a violation of the law.

Mr. GARDINER: Is there any regulation in force which requires that imported butter be sold with the name of the country of origin on the package?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No.

Mr. GARDINER: That should be done.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think this discussion is well justified. If the Minister will bring in a regulation requiring that no butter be sold in this country without bearing on the package the country of origin, it would work no hardship on anybody. The minister says that to-day New Zealand butter may be taken into the creameries, rewrapped there and sent out in any kind of package so long as that package does not state that the butter is made in Canada.

Mr. TUMMON: But bearing the name of the creamery doing so.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Yes, bearing the name of the Ottawa Dairy, the Fraser River Dairy, or whatever other dairy it may be, creating the impression in the public mind that it is Canadian butter. That is wholly unfair. If that is the case, I think the minister would be well advised to bring in the necessary regulation, if one does not exist—he says it does not—to require on the package the country of origin of butter of this character.

Mr. ROBB: Would my hon. friend apply that policy to all importations?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think so. We rather pride ourselves on our exports of agricultural products; we are proud of our cheese, cream, wheat, beef, and are very glad to have it marked Canadian. I see no reason whatever why goods imported into this country should not be always marked with the country of origin.

[Mr. Motherwell.]

Mr. CHAPLIN: I think the Minister of Agriculture must realize that such a practice is against the ordinary food laws of this country. This is nothing more nor less than a fraud upon our people, and I think those perpetrating it could be proceeded against under the ordinary common law. It is nothing more, nothing less, than a fraud.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend need not get quite so excited.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I am not excited at all. The minister should be excited, but he is not.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is not the time to get excited.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is too late in the session.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am glad my hon. friend from Bow River has brought up the question. I should like to apply such a regulation to a lot of things, but I understand there is the usual constitutional question to be worked out.

Mr. CHAPLIN: The British North America Act?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: What has my hon. friend from Lincoln got to say about it?

An hon. MEMBER: Nothing.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I thought it was nothing. In Great Britain the British Merchandise Marks Act is gradually being invoked against all importations. I should like to see the necessary regulation apply to practically all imports.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Why cannot it be done?

Mr. SENN: It is a protective measure of course.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Why has not the law been introduced before?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Yes.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Why has it not been enforced?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have the reputation of introducing so many amendments that until those are consolidated I hesitate to introduce any more.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I submit the minister has enough inspectors around to ascertain what is going on.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The inspectors are there to enforce the law. I do not think we can make any regulations under the existing law, in fact I am quite sure about it.