

apple packages and section 326 relating to berry packages with a view to having these governed by regulations so that they can be changed from time to time to meet the changing situation. A recent conference was held of fruit men, Government representatives and fruit package manufacturers and they agreed that this is the best system to follow in order to meet the situation. Sections 320 and 333 (b) refer to penalties and also give the Governor-in-Council power to make regulations.

Mr. FIELDING: The hon. gentleman refers to a conference that was held between departmental officials and representatives of the fruit trade. Did that conference represent the fruit interests of all the provinces? The fruit industry is a very wide one; it affects the Atlantic provinces, the Pacific coast, and to some extent Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. TOLMIE: I am informed by the representative of the fruit branch that this was a very representative meeting.

Mr. FIELDING: Were representatives of the Nova Scotia fruit growing industry present?

Mr. TOLMIE: I will be able to find that out definitely for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. FIELDING: All I want to know is whether they concur in what is being done.

Mr. BUREAU: If I understand the minister the Act of 1918 laid down rules as to the package of apples, berries, etc. To-day this power is being taken away from Parliament and it is proposed to give authority to certain officials of the department to control this matter by regulations that shall be adopted by the department. I must again make a complaint that I have made before. We should have before us sections 325 and 326 of the Inspection and Sale Act of 1918. As it is we do not know what the purport of those sections is. If the sections were printed on one side of the Bill we could gather their purport at a glance and readily comprehend what changes it is proposed to make. As far as I can see it is now contemplated to take away jurisdiction from Parliament and vest it in the minister or the officials of his department. I would like to know the nature of the provisions in question and in what respect they were found defective by the meeting of the fruit growers as my hon. friend has just stated. What particular regulation is complained of by the Fruit Growers' Association? In these sections it is stated what the dimen-

sions of the package should be and how the apples should be packed. If the provisions of the law as they stand are defective why not make the correction here, instead of requiring Parliament to abandon the right of making regulations for the packing of fruit and vesting the power in the officials of the department.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall clause one carry?

Mr. BUREAU: No, I want an answer to the question I have just put to the minister.

Mr. TOLMIE: I might say that the dimensions and specifications of the various fruit packages contained in these sections were unanimously approved, as I said before, at a meeting of delegates from the various provinces held in Ottawa on March 26, 1918, and were embodied in Bill No. 108 which was passed on May 24 of that year. It has since been demonstrated that owing to the highly technical character of these sections, which have to do with the dimensions, capacity, and quality of material in some of the containers, the manufacturers have found it difficult, in some cases, to meet all the requirements.

Mr. BUREAU: The minister has now at his desk an official of his department to advise him. In order that the official in question may understand what I mean I might repeat that as a result of a conference of fruit growers the law of 1918 was passed. I want to know in what particular respect the fruit growers complained against the regulations which were enacted by Parliament?

Mr. TOLMIE: One of the objections was that in Nova Scotia it was necessary to increase the length of the stave and widen the capacity of the barrel—it being of soft wood—so as to contain the same amount as the hardwood barrel.

Mr. FIELDING: Would my hon. friend be able now to answer the question I troubled him with a moment ago as to whether at the latest conference the fruit growers of Nova Scotia were represented?

Mr. TOLMIE: It was a Dominion-wide representation.

Mr. FIELDING: That is a very general answer, but sometimes a conference with Dominion-wide representation is not attended by representatives from all sections. I desire to know whether the fruit growers of Nova Scotia were represented, and if so by whom.