

dishonest sugar makers will use refined sugar and that sort of thing to increase the quantity of their syrup, and it is a difficult thing to get at that. The officials in all the departments here at Ottawa would not be sufficient to watch all the sugar bushes in the country. We want to protect the honest man.

Mr. BUREAU: If you get an honest man to lay the information, I am with you; but generally it is a scoundrel that does it.

Mr. BRODER: The fact is that with all the inspection we have there is a lot of spurious syrup being sold in the shops of Ottawa to-day. So far, the enforcement of the law has not been effective.

Mr. BUREAU: The hon. member for Dundas knows very well that it is not the honest, respectable kind of citizen that will turn informer. The only persons who will do this kind of work are those who expect to make a little money out of it. If a man has a grudge against another he may try to get even by laying information and getting the penalty under this section. The honest man who has any complaint to make does not need this inducement. If I know that somebody is cheating the public, I will tell the inspector to go down to So and So and take a sample of his syrup for analysis, because I have reason to believe it is not what it ought to be. But this proposal to give half the fine to the informer will not appeal to the respectable element of the community.

Mr. BLONDIN: I might remind my hon. friend that the information is given to the officers of the department, who ascertain whether the sample is adulterated. I think that is a safeguard against the abuses of which my hon. friend is afraid.

Mr. MARCIL: In cases of prosecution under this law, in whose name is the case made out?

Mr. BLONDIN: I am not quite sure, but in the name of the department, I think.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Might I call the attention of the minister to the remarks of the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau). This legislation which the minister is introducing of giving power to the informer to prosecute is becoming obsolete. It used to be very common in former days, but in recent legislation it has been eliminated. Only two days ago the Finance Minister struck

out a similar provision in the new Taxes Bill.

Mr. GREEN: I do not think that any harm will be done to the honest dealer or manufacturer. It is certainly true that with all the machinery the Government has, it is impossible to put a full check on all the avenues of deception that are possible. I think that this provision is perfectly proper, but I think that the word "may" in the third line should be changed to "shall." I should like to know why the payment of a fine to a man who is entitled to it, should be optional with the department. If it is right that the man should be paid for giving this information, let him have the remuneration to which he is entitled by virtue of this Act.

Mr. BUREAU: If you are going to do that, why not state the exact amount which the informer shall receive, and let us put it in the Bill?

Mr. BOYER (Translation): The provisions of this section contain nothing, to my mind, that is new. There are many acts in existence which impose fines that are either wholly or in part handed over to the informer.

The hon. member for Three-Rivers (Mr. Bureau) fears that it may become an instrument of blackmail. I do not entertain the same fear. The person who is accused of selling an adulterated article will not be sentenced simply on the information being laid, because before anything is done the officers of the Department of Inland Revenue will make a test of the sugar or syrup complained of to find out if the act has really been violated as alleged. I believe the provision is preventive and will have some deterring influence. I am therefore in favour of the section.

Mr. LAFORTUNE (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I wish to put in a few remarks regarding this Bill. I have listened to what has been said by the minister and it seems to me that the proposal made by him and incorporated in the Bill that it be allowed to put on the market adulterated maple sugar or syrup, is objectionable and should be rejected.

Mr. BLONDIN (Translation): Amendments have been adopted and this section was struck out. I believe the hon. member was not present at the time.

Mr. LAFORTUNE (Translation): So much the better. If I understand rightly, it will then be illegal to label the crates