

Take, for instance, the situation throughout this country in the month of July, when the thermometer is registering very high. It is an impossibility for any man to make finest cheese. It cannot be done. Are you going to brand all the cheese as seconds? If you are, you are going to take millions of dollars out of the producers' pockets. It does not make a dollar's worth of difference to me; I am not interested in factories in any way; but this legislation is an interference with the trade and commerce of this country. It is making a soft job for some fellow.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Honourable gentlemen, I come from a county that has the largest cheese export business of any county in my province. In fact, it is the dairying county of the Province, and exports more than all the rest of the Province together. This Bill, I feel, will work serious hardship to the manufacturers of cheese in that county. It is of a kind with the legislation that I was objecting to to-day—putting obstructions in the way of business, putting impositions upon business, making cost to the people who are engaged in the trade, increasing the cost to the people who buy, and diminishing the profits to the people who sell. It is clearly wrong. You are going to appoint an army of officials. You cannot have this grading all done at one particular place. It will be necessary to appoint an army of officials. Heaven and earth! have we not enough persons drawing Government salaries in the country now? I would like to see the number lessened. We have thousands upon thousands, twice as many as we sent in the first contingent to the great war. And you are going to add to the number, and going to place, as I say, an imposition upon trade, which will seriously handicap and affect it.

What is the fact with regard to the cheese business? Canadian cheese stands high in the markets of the world, and its reputation has been built up by the integrity of the men who have been engaged in the export of Canadian cheese, and those who have been engaged in its manufacture. All that has been done without this grading that you propose by this Bill.

The Department of Trade and Commerce is to my mind—well, language fails me to express my opinion of the Department of Trade and Commerce. I will say no more about it, for fear I might say too much. But it seems to me that in the departments there are men who make a study of what kind of legislation they can invent for the

purpose of hampering trade and interfering with other people's business, not for the protection of the people, but for the purpose of interfering with business. They think perhaps they are not earning their salaries, or that they will not convince the public that they are earning their salaries unless they are involved in this mischievous interfering legislation.

As the honourable leader of the Opposition has said, it is late in the Session. We have not had time to give proper consideration to this proposal. It is a serious matter to undertake to regulate trade. And let me say to you, honourable gentlemen, that, so far as I am concerned, the fact that a Bill was passed by the House of Commons does not, as is said vulgarly, cut any ice with me, because I have seen some of the rottenest legislation passed by the House of Commons. I say, it does not cut any ice with me, and it should not influence you, honourable gentlemen. You are here for a specific purpose. It is the particular duty of this House to supervise legislation and to stand between the public and their so-called representatives in the other Chamber. I trust that the motion of the honourable member from Brockville will pass, and that this Bill will not now be proceeded with. We have plenty of work on the Order Paper to be done in the short time that is left to us before prorogation, and we had better occupy ourselves with that and leave the poor producers of cheese and butter and other food products made from milk alone for this Session at any rate.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I asked a question of the Minister, because I had not a copy of the Bill before me. The question was not answered, but I have since ascertained that the Bill, if it passes, will not compel any trader to have his cheese graded at all. It is only to provide for machinery so that anybody who desires to export cheese abroad may have the advantage of obtaining a certificate as to its grade from the Government inspector. I fail to see what objection there can be to that. The purpose is to maintain the quality and reputation of Canadian cheese in England or in other countries. This cannot do any harm to anybody, because nobody will be compelled to have recourse to the grading provided for by the Act.

Hon. Mr. DONNELLY: Before the honourable minister answers the question, may I say that I was somewhat interested in the same point, and I would like to obtain