

Manifestly a farmer cannot put on every package the name of the man for whom it is put up; he will put on the package his own name and address. Paragraph a concludes:

Also with the address of the place of business of such person, co-partnership or company.

Paragraph b reads:

(b) the name of the articles of food or other commodities in such container, and the net weight in Dominion standard avoirdupois weight, or the measure in Dominion standard capacity measure, or the numerical count of such food or other commodity.

That must be marked on the package. Section 358B says:

358b. (1) Every person who sells, offers for sale, or has in his possession for sale, any container not marked, stamped or branded according to the requirements of this Act, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of one dollar for each container not properly marked, and, in addition, to a penalty of twenty-five dollars for a first offence and one hundred dollars for each subsequent offence; and,

(2) Every person who marks, brands or stamps any container with any untrue statement, shall, on summary conviction, in addition to the penalties prescribed in subsection one hereof, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six months.

Now, I submit to this honourable House that, having in mind the situation in which the farmers of this country are placed, and the necessity for them to devote every possible hour of their time, all the energy they possess, and every dollar of their money, to increasing the output of agricultural products, we should realize that it is a mistake at this stage to impose upon them such a burden, one which I do not believe will bring about the results which were aimed at by the man who framed the Bill. It may be at some future time desirable that this House, having had an opportunity to communicate with the persons who are interested in this measure, should ascertain whether there is any such wrong as surely somebody must have imagined to exist at the time this Bill was framed. For myself, I have never heard of any demand for this Bill. I have never heard of any general complaint of wrong being done in the matters dealt with by the clauses to which I have referred and others to which I shall call attention. I think that an absolute injustice will be done if the House passes this Bill in its present form. Section 358C says:

The provisions of this Act shall not apply to, (a) any article manufactured or packed for export.

That is to say, we require to protect the consumers of this country and the reputa-

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tion of the farmers of this country against fraud and mistakes with respect to goods that are to be sold at home, but as to goods to be sent abroad we do not care whether the packages are properly filled or not, whether they are properly stamped or not, or whether the articles are good or bad. It seems to me that if there is any necessity for having the goods branded and the name of the maker placed on the package, it applies quite as much, or more, to goods that are sent out of this country upon which the good name and the credit of the farmers and people of Canada depends a great deal more than upon the goods that are made for home consumption. I mention this point only to show that apparently this Bill has not been given that consideration which its importance requires.

Section 359, referring to firewood, provides:

359. Wood when sold or offered for sale in Canada as fuel, other than mill scrap, kindlings or other mill refuse, shall be sold by the cord or fraction thereof, and every cord shall contain one hundred and twenty-eight cubic feet, closely and fairly piled, which measurements shall form the basis of all transactions for the sale of wood for fuel, and all sales made shall be for a full cord or a fraction thereof.

In other words, it would seem as though this Government had made up its mind that the farmers of Canada must become experts as wood-pilers, and if they fail to do so or if they make a mistake of a stick or two in a cord they will get into trouble.

But there is another clause which shows that the drafter of this Bill does not mean what he says, for section 359B provides that "notwithstanding anything in this Act, wood may be sold otherwise than by the cord." The first section dealing with firewood says that every cord of wood sold or offered for sale must contain so many cubic feet, while, according to the last section, you may buy firewood by the load, by the wheel-barrow load, or in any way you like; it does not make any difference whether you buy it by the cord or not. In these two clauses there is evidence that the drafting of the Bill has not had the consideration it deserves.

Section 360 refers to Portland cement. I am not in the cement business; I have no interest in cement, not one share of stock, but I have an opinion on the question from the standpoint of the farmers. Section 360 says:

360. All Portland cement shall be sold by weight and ninety-four pounds shall constitute a bag and four such bags, shall constitute a barrel.