

some of them are smaller than others, what difference does that make? The farmer knows that in doing business with the general public on the open market he cannot expect to retain his customers unless he gives them what he says he gives them. He sells the eggs as fresh eggs and that is all there is to the matter. Supposing there are two farmers' wagons side by side each with a basket of eggs and the eggs of one farmer are a little smaller than those of the other while the price is the same. The customer uses his judgment, makes his own selection and buys accordingly. To oblige the farmer's wife who takes a few dozen eggs to market to candle them, weigh them and subject them to measurement as to depth of air cell and all that sort of thing, is a decided nuisance and inconvenience which does not protect the public because the public does not need any protection along that line.

Apply the system of grading if you will to eggs for export or sold to the wholesaler; but to put a person who goes on the open market offering for sale a basket of two, three, four or five dozen eggs to the inconvenience and trouble of candling every egg, and measuring as to air cell, visibility of yolk and all that sort of thing is utter nonsense. From conversations I have had week after week with people on the market at Kingston I know this is regarded by them as an unnecessary inconvenience and nuisance and I see no object to be gained by subjecting those who sell in small quantities to this inconvenience. Remove it as regards the sale by the farmer on the open market in the cities and towns throughout the country and you will not do any harm to the trade, but on the contrary you will do away with what is regarded as a great nuisance and inconvenience. Numbers of farmers and farm women have spoken to me in regard to this matter, and they feel when they offer a basket of eggs on the market that it is up to them to guarantee that those eggs are fresh, but they regard the requirement to grade them into firsts, seconds, specials and extras as entirely unnecessary and I regard it in that light also.

There is a little too much of a tendency on the part of legislative bodies including this House of Commons to exercise paternal care over and to regard the general public as possessed of no common sense at all. Let the general public exercise the common sense which they have exercised all through the past years until this grading was put into force. I have not heard any great demand on the part of the people for this and I do not believe there is any great demand.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I presume that this resolution, introduced as it is, is a vote of want of confidence in the government. In consequence of the neglect and failure of a certain department of this government to accord what I thought was the very barest and most common measure of justice to some constituents of mine, I had sworn by such political gods as I adhere to to vote against the government until that grievance was remedied. My action in this connection was much along the line referred to a few weeks ago by an hon. gentleman on the opposite side in regard to the man who would not stop talking until he got compensation for the widow's cow. I think there are occasions when that is undignified, but that was the only possible remedy. This is the opportunity for me to do that, but I cannot stultify my convictions in this particular instance and the interest of my constituents by voting against the government in this matter although I would like to do so.

According to the wording of the resolution the mover wants the egg grading regulation not to apply to sale by retail in the local markets. He modified that in his speech by saying that he did not want the system to apply to farmers selling eggs to a consumer. Do not all poultry farmers produce eggs for the retail trade? In that way the resolution would mean the vitiation of the whole system of egg grading. If you allow one portion of the trade to be exempt you might as well throw up your hands and withdraw the whole egg grading system, because it would be impossible to enforce it properly.

The hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) said: Why pick on eggs? This is one of the products of agriculture and almost all agricultural products are graded. The hon. member mentioned butter. Does he not know that butter is graded? What about wheat? What about hogs? In New Zealand you are not allowed to ship a carcass of mutton to the Old Country unless it is graded.

Mr. SENN: When a farmer exposes a pound of butter on the market for sale has it to be graded?

Mr. NEILL: I do not know, but if it is not necessary that it be graded that is perhaps the reason why the quality of Canadian butter is not as high as it should be. It is for export at least. In New Zealand they are so jealous of their reputation in regard to certain classes of mutton that they will not allow any of this product to be shipped out without inspection. The whole history of agriculture is leading the farmers more and