

of a law regarding immigration being placed on the statute book that can be administered according to rule and line. The officers of the department must administer that law according to its spirit and intent, using the letter where that is necessary to enforce the spirit and intent. But to apply the letter of the law in such a case as was mentioned by the member for Pictou and by the minister is to disregard the responsibilities of administration.

Mr. ROCHE: Such action was taken on the advice of the Justice Department.

Mr. OLIVER: When the Justice Department is asked to do so, it states, of course, the interpretation of the law. But my hon. friend must know that, in many cases, common sense and public policy demand that the law shall be administered according to its import rather than according to its letter. There is no evidence, therefore, either of the necessity or of the desirability of any change in the law. The proposed change rests, then, simply upon the desire or intention of the minister to let down the bars with regard to Chinese immigration to the extent provided in this section. To that I am compelled to offer my most strenuous opposition. It is suggested that because we are in a state of war, and because we have the assistance of certain allies, we are debarred from dealing with our own affairs according to our own requirements and the dictates of our own interest. But let it be thoroughly understood that that is not the purpose for which our soldiers are fighting in this war. The soldiers of Canada are fighting in this war so that Canada shall be mistress in her own house.

As to the amendment respecting clergymen, the existing Act was framed with regard to the fact that white men had gone to China as missionaries, and had there married women of that country. These men, being required in the course of their duties to come back to Canada, found themselves faced with the necessity of paying head tax upon their families. It was to provide for such cases that the law was made as it is. It did not contemplate the admission into Canada of clergymen of the Chinese race, whatever might be their religion. It contemplated simply the free admission of families of Chinese origin which were the families of white clergymen whose duties called them back to Canada. It is not desirable that any amendment to the law should go further than that, especially in view of the fact that the minister is not able to explain

how far-reaching this section is. I wish to go on record, therefore, as protesting with all the strength of which I am capable against the proposals contained in the first section of the Bill.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

MEAT AND CANNED FOODS ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion of Sir George Foster (Minister of Trade and Commerce), Bill No. 73, to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act, was read the second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion of Sir George Foster, Bill No. 74, to amend the Fisheries Act, was read the second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries.

BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion of Sir Thomas White (Minister of Finance), Bill No. 65, to amend the Bank Act, was read the second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion of Sir Thomas White, Bill No. 68, to amend the Civil Service Act, was read the second time.

SUPPLY.

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Fisheries—Building fishways and clearing rivers, \$30,000.

Mr. HAZEN: When I was in committee before with my estimates I told the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) that when my estimates came up again I would give him a statement of the number of appointments made in the Department of Marine and Fisheries under section 21 of the Civil Service Act. This is the statement:—

Captain Louis Arthur Demers, wreck commissioner, aged 55, was appointed on the 2nd of May, 1916, at a salary of \$3,300 per annum. His present salary is \$3,400 per annum. He entered the outside service of the department on the 11th of October, 1904, after having served some twelve years with fishery cruisers; he was transferred to the inside service on 1st September, 1908,