

reference to the dismissal of Eugene Baldwin, Customs officer at Coaticook, and another to the change in the regulations concerning the duty on lobster twine.

Mr. REID (Grenville). I think I laid that return about the lobster twine on the table. The other return has been delayed pending the receipt of another copy of the newspaper.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). I have a dozen, I shall dispense with that.

Mr. REID (Grenville). Then I shall bring down the return on Monday.

Mr. STANFIELD. I moved for a return from the Railway Department two years ago and only one half of it has been brought down. I have mentioned the matter several times and I would like to have it completed.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Has any decision been arrived at by the Department of Marine and Fisheries as regards the retention of the Harbour Commissioners in Montreal?

Mr. HAZEN. The hon. gentleman is out of order because there is a question dealing with that matter on the order paper to be answered in due course.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am desired by the member for Westmorland (Mr. Emmerson) to call the attention of the government to the fact that Mr. W. H. Downey, the deputy returning officer for the constituency of Kings-Albert I presume, because the letter is from Harvey Bank in Albert county, has not yet received the election expenses which are due him by the government. He says he filled in the blank form as required to be signed but when the remittance was made the returning officer said that a part of the amount was withheld without information. The amount, although small, is of importance to him, and I wish the Secretary of State would look into the matter for my hon. friend.

Mr. ROCHE. Those accounts are looked after by the Auditor General.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). Would the Minister of Customs (Mr. Reid) inform the House when the writ for South Renfrew will issue?

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, January 29, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

LORD'S DAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. VERVILLE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 85) to amend the Lord's

Day Act. He said: The amendment is with respect to musicians who have been more than once prosecuted for having played on Sunday at funerals and public parades and so forth. They would like this disability to be removed. This Bill also provides to give a day's holiday to waiters and waitresses working in restaurants and hotels.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. MACDONELL moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 86) to amend the Railway Act. He said: This Bill simply provides to add to the powers of the Railway Commission by giving it jurisdiction over the length of sections and number of men required to do work on a section. The Railway Commission supposed it had such power and had dealt with matters of that kind, but, on appeal it was found that the Act does not give it such jurisdiction.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT.

Mr. MACDONELL moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 87) to amend the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of 1907. He said: This Act at presents prohibits a strike or lockout pending negotiations where there is a labour dispute. There is an additional subsection preventing any one from aiding or assisting an employer or employee during that period. The courts have construed that section to prohibit any aid or assistance being given to the men by any labour union during that time. They have held that where the strike condition exists, but the strike has not been declared and the conciliation board has not reported, it is unlawful for anybody to give assistance to the striker or a man prepared to strike. That would prevent the ordinary benefits payable by labour unions from being distributed to the men during that time. I do not believe that the Act was ever intended to bear that meaning. Such an interpretation would prevent any one from giving charity to a striking employee. The amendment makes it permissible for the funds of a benefit society or a trade union to be paid to its members during that period without incurring liability and laying itself open to the penalties of a criminal offence.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE WRIT FOR SOUTH RENFREW.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would ask my right hon. friend who leads the govern-