

Throne, upon which the Select Committee was appointed. It is only upon their report that we can act, not upon any motion, such as the hon. gentleman is now making. It strikes me, therefore, the true course would be to await the report of the Select Committee, and upon that to move whatever resolution might be necessary to initiate the legislation which they suggest.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The House certainly struck a Committee for the purpose of examining and reporting on this subject, with instructions to report by Bill or otherwise—no matter whether they reported by Bill or by resolution. The House has not concurred in that report; and will not be asked to concur in it. The report will be laid before the House as a means of information to the House. They might report a resolution which did not meet the views of the Government, and the Government, therefore, take the responsibility of moving this general resolution as a matter affecting trade and commerce; it will commence in Committee, and certainly there can be no point of Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. It seems to me that by adopting this resolution and going into Committee, it is open to introduce a Bill, either a Bill that has been reported by the Committee, or some similar Bill. I think the motion is in order.

Motion agreed to; and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. BLAKE. I presume the hon. gentleman will give us some explanation of what the general provisions of this proposed measure will be. I suppose the real object of this is that the important matters concerning trade should be sifted and go through more stages than ordinary matters. That is the object of the rule; but if it is to be pure form, if the Speaker is to be moved out of the Chair, and you, Mr. Chairman, to be moved into the Chair, and the Committee is to report back again, and we are to have no more light until the Bill is introduced, then I would like to know of what use, for what object, this proceeding is taken. It seems to me there is substance as well as form, and that there ought to be more frequent stages, and earlier information than upon ordinary Bills. I would invite the hon. gentleman, therefore, to give us some explanation, particularly as he has told us that the House is not to be asked to concur in the report of the Select Committee, as the Government, upon their own responsibility, is now taking this initiative. We are now entirely at sea. We have had some information from the newspapers as to what the Committee has done, and the character of their Bill, but we have none at all as to the proposition the Government is about to submit to us.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would simply say that this resolution is practically a matter of form. The expediency of dealing with the subject was approved in the Address from the Throne, and the formation of the Committee, and the submission of this subject to the Committee, showed that the House thought we should have legislation in the matter. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I think this is a mere matter of form, in order to satisfy the letter as well as the spirit of the Rule of the House.

Mr. BLAKE. Then the hon. gentleman declines to give us any information as to the nature of the legislation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We will discuss that when the Bill is brought in.

Resolution reported.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced Bill (No. 132) respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the issue of licenses therefor.

Mr. BLAKE. Is this Bill in print?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; it is printed in English and French.

Bill read the first time.

PATENT ACT (1872) AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. POPE, in moving the second reading of Bill (No. 122) to amend the Patent Act of 1872, said: The object of the present Bill is to remove difficulties in the working of the existing law. One main difficulty was that by the Patent Laws of the United States, any patent taken out expires at the earliest date at which the patent could expire, which had been taken out in any other country. We have always acted on the principle that our patents were for fifteen years. They are first issued for five years, and a fee of \$20 imposed, and the time is afterwards extended for ten years more, and a further fee of \$20 is collected. This arrangement was made in the interest of the patentee, so as to make it easy for him to procure a patent. It has been decided by the United States Courts that a patent taken out in the United States, after a patent had been taken out here, would expire at the end of five years, under our law. This amendment is intended to remove, as far as we can remove, this difficulty. We declare by this Bill that:

“The term limited for the duration of every patent of invention issued by the Patent Office shall be fifteen years; but at the time of the application therefor it shall be at the option of the applicant to pay the full fee required for the term of fifteen years, or the partial fee required for the term of five years, or the partial fee required for the term of ten years.”

It further states:

“Every patent heretofore issued by the Patent Office in respect of which the fee required for the whole or for any unexpired portion of the term of fifteen years, has been duly paid according to the provisions of the now existing law in that behalf, has been and shall be deemed to have been issued for the term of fifteen years, subject, in case a partial fee only has been paid, to cease on the same conditions on which patents hereafter issued are to cease under the operation of this section.”

The object of this Bill is, therefore, to give effect to what we have always contended was the principle on which we have issued patents, and to make the law clear. We hope that when this measure is adopted our patents will be accepted in the United States as being issued for fifteen years. The difficulty experienced is greater on account of the fact that when parties apply for patents in the United States and Canada, ours are issued two, three or four months before those of the United States, and that being the case the decision of the American Courts provided that the patents shall expire in the United States at the shortest time for which they were issued in any other country.

Bill read the second time, considered in Committee, reported, and read the third time and passed.

THIRD READING.

The following Bill was read the third time, and passed:—

Bill (No. 126) to make further provision respecting the regulation and collection of tolls on Government timber slides and other works constructed to facilitate the transmission of timber, lumber and saw-logs.—(Mr. Costigan.)

SUPERANNUATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved the second reading of Bill (No. 91) to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the superannuation of persons employed in the Civil Service of Canada.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will explain the Bill.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. As I stated when the resolutions were brought down, this Bill is mainly a consolidation