

and later on we can take it up in committee and discuss it.

Mr. OLIVER. As to the point raised by my hon. friend from East Grey, there is a special tax levied to-day, and it has been in existence ever since the organization of the Yukon Territory, upon spirituous liquors, I think \$2 per gallon, for the benefit of the local revenue.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that on the sale of certain liquors?

Mr. OLIVER. No, on the importation. This proposal is simply to put beer on the same basis as spirituous liquors, except as to the amount of the tax levied. It is a tax levied for local revenue purposes, not by the local council, but by the parliament of Canada. Parliament being the paramount authority, we are asking it to take the action necessary to make the previous action of the Governor in Council effective. I move that the House go into committee on this resolution on Monday next.

Motion agreed to.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture when he proposes to bring on his Civil Service resolution and the Bill to be founded thereon. I am a little anxious to have the minister say when, because the resolution has stood now for about two months, and it is being very sedulously circulated about the departments, whether by design or not I do not know, that the government do not care to bring it in because if they do Mr. Foster will block it; and I am receiving letters and requests from all sources asking me for heaven's sake not to block the Bill. Well, I never had any idea of blocking it. If any one has been blocking it, it has been the Minister of Agriculture, who for two months has had the way clear for it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend seems to be very careful of his reputation.

Mr. FOSTER. My reputation is all right. But there are some methods of political warfare that are not the finest in the world and this is one of them.

Mr. FISHER. If the hon. member for North Toronto were suffering the pains that I have been, he would have some reason for complaint.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not care how many pains you suffer.

Mr. FISHER. The matter stood over also in consequence of some objections th-

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

hon. member took to the form of the Bill—in which I concurred; as it requires a schedule of the classifications of the departments. The classifications of the departments have been ready for a long time; but the classifications of the Senate and the House of Commons are not yet ready, and until they are I cannot proceed with the Bill. I am waiting until they are completed.

Mr. FOSTER. Now we know where the difficulty is.

GOVERNMENT HARBOURS AND PIERS.

House again in committee on Bill (No. 89) to amend the Government Harbour and Piers Act.—Mr. Brodeur.

On section 1, lease of wharf and breakwaters.

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). Some objection was raised to the first part of this section. The section is divided into two parts. The first part provides for the leasing of wharfs to any provincial government, municipal council, harbour commission, shipping company, railway company or other person. The second part deals with the rentals. From what I have seen of the discussion that took place, I do not know of any objection raised to this part of the measure. But there was objection to the first part. It is objected that no limit of time is fixed for these leases. I intend to meet this objection by an amendment providing that the leases shall be for terms not exceeding three years. It was objected also that there might be an injustice to other companies than the leasing company who desire to use the wharf. I may explain that the intention of the department is not to lease wharfs in cases where several shipping companies use the same wharf. But, where there is only one company mainly interested in the maintenance of the wharf, we provide for the leasing of the wharf to that company. In that way, a great deal of expenditure will be avoided, because lessee will make the necessary repairs. But to meet any objection I intend to propose that no lease shall be given until tenders have been publicly called for. There will be assurance in this that no undue advantage will be taken. Another objection raised was as to possible injustice to private parties using the wharf—that undue charges will be made. I intend to propose an amendment that the lessee shall charge the same rates as are provided for in the general order in council. We have regulations for the management of breakwaters, levees and wharfs provided under orders in council passed in 1889, 1892 and 1903, and the tolls on these