

possible for a state of war to continue in Canada, or in any of the British Dominions, after the war is declared to be at an end by an Imperial proclamation?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is presumed that the war will be declared to be at an end by an Imperial proclamation. That proclamation will end the war so far as Canada is concerned, and the operation of the War Measures Act will cease.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

On the motion of Hon. A. K. Maclean (Acting Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue) Bill No. 42, to amend the Weights and Measures Act, was read a second time, and the House went into Committee thereon.

On section 1—"Inspector" defined.

Mr. McKENZIE: Will the minister please say if the amendment which is proposed here changes the territorial jurisdiction of any of the officers at present at work?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, this clause merely provides for the transfer of the administration of weights and measures from the Inland Revenue Department to the Department of Trade and Commerce, which transfer was made some months ago. Further, the clause gives a definition of the word "Inspector." I think perhaps my hon. friend's question refers to another clause.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Contents of French foot.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: On the first reading of the Bill the object of this clause was explained very fully. The change proposed is consequent upon the recommendation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures to secure what is expected to be a more accurate definition of the French foot. So far as Canada is concerned, the French foot is employed only in the province of Quebec, and in connection with land surveys. The French foot as at present defined contains 12.79 inches, and the correction only amounts to .001. I understand this change is approved of by the Incorporated Society of Surveyors in the province of Quebec, and I do not think there can be any objection to it.

Mr. McMASTER: Should there be a hyphen after the word "eighty," in the fourth line of the clause? Should the figures there be seven hundred and eighty-nine thousandths, or seven hundred and eighty-nine thousandths?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The figures should be seven hundred and eighty-nine thousandths, there should be a hyphen.

Section agreed to.

On Section 3—Superintendent may be appointed.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There really is no substantial change contemplated by this clause. Under the law as it at present stands the Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue was the chief administrative officer of weights and measures. Inasmuch as this branch is being transferred to another department, the administrative work is being placed under the control of an officer, to be called the superintendent. That is the important change which the clause makes.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Is it intended to increase the number of officers engaged in this work? I see that by subsection (3) the Governor in Council is empowered to divide the country into inspection divisions, and to decide the number of officers to be appointed.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That provision was contained in one of the clauses which this Bill repeals. It is considered advisable to have the power referred to, although the departmental officers advise me that there is no intention to make additional appointments at present.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Then it is not intended at present to increase the number of officers?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—Frequency of inspections.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: How often is inspection of weights and measures and weighing and measuring machines to be made? Some dealers complain that they are greatly worried by the inspectors in that regard.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: It is not intended to inspect all scales annually. But there are certain scales, such as those in elevators and railway stations, which are used daily, and it is considered desirable that they at least be subject to annual inspection.

Section agreed to.

On section 7—Penalty for short weights, measure or count.

Mr. ROBB: In making the regulations I suppose the department will take into con-