

Hon. Mr. TUPPER asked the hon. gentleman to indicate about the time when the Bill would go before the Committee so that parties interested might have an opportunity to be present.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER—About the end of next week, I suppose.

The Bill read a first time.

GAS INSPECTION.

Hon. Mr. GEOFFRION introduced a Bill to amend the Gas Inspection Act of 1873. He said that some difficulty had been found in applying the Act passed some few years ago. The most important alteration proposed to be effected by the new Act was this :—The law provided that in the immediate vicinity of the gas works an office should be placed in which the gas was tested. In England the law said that such office should not be placed within one thousand yards of the works. It was proposed in the Bill that the office should be established at a distance of not less than five hundred yards.

The Bill was read a first time.

MARINE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, in moving the second reading of "An Act to regulate the construction and maintenance of the Marine Electric Telegraphs," said he had to give some explanations to the House to account for the Government taking possession of the Bill which was passed last Session through the hands of a private member. The correspondence that had been laid before the House would show that the Government felt impelled to take direct interest in the obtaining of the sanction of HER MAJESTY'S Government to the Bill of that Session. It was reserved, not because the Government had any doubt as to the perfect right of Parliament to pass the Act, or as to the perfect equity of the proceeding, or that any right, legal or equitable, would be injured under it, but simply because strong representations had been made to the Parliament of Canada and to HER MAJESTY'S Government in England, concerning the supposed rights of certain parties connected with the Anglo-American Telegraph Company. And in order that there should be no possible reason for complaining that the rights of parties living out of the Dominion of Canada had been sacrificed or injured by that legislation, it was left to HER

MAJESTY'S Government to decide whether it was a subject upon which we had a right to legislate, and whether that legislation was of such a character as should receive the sanction of HER MAJESTY'S Government. He would state the facts as succinctly as possible, and then he intended to send the Bill to the Railway Committee, and give every one who desired an opportunity of appearing in order to represent their own views. HER MAJESTY'S Government, in the despatch that was before the House, concluded as follows:—"While, therefore, I entirely appreciate the action of your Ministers in reserving the Bill, I am of opinion that any further consideration of the subject should be given by that body whose province, as I have observed, is to deal with such questions, and that I cannot properly assume the function of deciding between the conflicting views of those who have addressed me, whether in favor of, or against the policy embodied in this measure. In order to enable this to be done, I have decided to leave the present Bill in abeyance, and to tender no advice to HER MAJESTY respecting it." The Government took the ground, as would be observed by the Minutes in Council, that there was no reason for disallowing this Bill. HER MAJESTY'S Government had assented to that proposition, but deemed it proper, instead of giving the formal assent, to leave it to this Parliament to act afresh, after tendering the advice that they had perfect confidence in leaving the matter to be dealt with by the Canadian Parliament. The object of the Bill was to terminate a monopoly practically enjoyed in the Province of Nova Scotia, and consequently in the Dominion, and prevent the establishment of any monopoly in cable telegraphing; and it became all the more necessary to do this as the Island of Newfoundland had practically established a monopoly which extended to the whole Dominion, and he might say to the whole of America, the Island being used as a telegraph cable station in the middle of the Atlantic. The policy that this measure embodied was one that was entirely consistent with the policy of the British Empire and with the policy of Canada, and was in accordance with all the legislation that had taken place in the United States, for the United States refused to cede any special privilege to

Hon. Mr. Tupper.