

tion originating in this Chamber similar to those which have obtained by the House of Commons in the parliament at Westminster. I may say that the government had under consideration, prior to the opening of this session, legislation with this end in view, but we were anxious the public should feel fully convinced of the necessity before pressing it on the attention of parliament. Hon. members will recall that at the close of last session, and at the close of the preceding session, bills which were passed by this House and which touched matters that are very vital to the electorate failed of enactment owing to the action of the Senate. This year we have instances of bills that have passed this House in three separate sessions of parliament, and which have been rejected each time by the second Chamber. I think we owe it to the people of our country with respect to laws demanded by the electorate to see to the supremacy in parliament of the elective Chamber. I desire to assure the House that when parliament re-assembles steps will be taken by the government to obtain, if possible, means whereby bills may be enacted by and with the advice and consent of the House of Commons under conditions similar in principle to those which have been sanctioned for the parliament of the United Kingdom.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister to be more specific as to the government's proposals? In the absence of any further statement I would presume that what the Prime Minister and the government intend is an address praying for an amendment to the British North America Act. Is it the intention of the government, on that assumption, to first confer with the provinces?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government will take advantage of the recess to consider in what form this matter can best be presented to parliament. I have made the objective clear, and the government will take the means which it believes will be most effective in bringing about the result which is aimed at in the quickest possible manner.

## RETURNS

### STATEMENT BY HON. MR. CARDIN

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, if the House will permit me, I would like to clear myself of the accusations which were made against me or against my department by the right hon. leader of the opposition this morning.

On the 7th of July, the right hon. leader of the opposition made a complaint that a return brought down by my department was incomplete. I referred the matter to the officers of the department, and it was found that two or three letters had been omitted from the return, but they were of no importance at all, and the substance of them was included in other letters which were brought down in the return. It was only an oversight that these letters were not included in the return which has been laid on the table of the House. They were, in fact, in the copy of the return which we have kept in the department. I am in a position to complete this return, and lay upon the table the correspondence which was missing.

In regard to an order in council making New Brunswick a separate district with respect to the enforcement of lobster fishery regulations, there is no order in council. The matter was dealt with by departmental letter, a copy of which is included in the correspondence I will lay on the table.

In regard to the correspondence with Mr. Selime Robichaud, the officers of the department thought this correspondence was not covered by the order of the House, but in order that this return may be complete, I am in a position now to lay on the table of the House this correspondence also.

Another complaint was made in regard to an order asking for the correspondence exchanged with Mr. J. B. Levesque of Trois Pistoles. The complaint was that a letter addressed to Mr. Beland, the agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Quebec was not included in the return. This letter was not included in the return because Mr. Beland says he never received the letter which Mr. Levesque contends he addressed to him, but a copy of this letter has been sent to the department, and I am in a position to place a copy of it on the table of the House. I might mention that when the return was brought before the House, Mr. Doucet, who had moved for it, asked the department for a copy of this letter, and a copy was handed to him on the 5th of July. I am satisfied to have had this opportunity of clearing myself of the accusations which have been made against me, and I am glad to have been able to supply the right hon. leader of the opposition with some literature the perusal of which will, I am sure, add to the enjoyment of his holidays.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I had no intention of making anything in the nature of a personal charge against the minister. In fact, he was not minister when the transactions the letters respecting which were omitted took place. I