

to protect the consumer? If so, how and when? Would it be possible to have a copy of the report made to the city hall by Mr. Cuddy concerning the condition of the public scales which he inspected?

Hon. W. D. EULER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I read in the press a day or so ago a report of the decision given by Magistrate Strike in connection with the prosecution under the Weights and Measures Act, to which the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) has referred. I admit that this decision seems to disclose a surprising and unsatisfactory situation. It is my intention to give careful consideration to the whole matter and if it is found that this act is defective in the matter of the protection of the public, I shall recommend to the government an appropriate amendment.

Mr. BENNETT: In the meantime we might take an appeal.

Mr. EULER: The whole matter will be taken into consideration and it is possible it may involve an appeal to a higher court to ascertain whether the act is defective. No amendment will be offered until the matter is clearly settled in our own minds and we have reached a decision as to the efficiency of the act with regard to such prosecutions. At the moment I see no objection to giving my hon. friend access to the report which has been rendered.

#### INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS

##### IMPERIAL DEFENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to inquire of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) if it is possible to have answers to the questions which now stand on the order paper in my name?

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Minister of National Defence): These replies were prepared yesterday by the Department of National Defence and forwarded to the Secretary of State (Mr. Rinfret). I see no objection to filing the answers during the course of the day.

##### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PEACE RIVER COUNTRY

Mr. R. A. PELLETIER (Peace River): I should like to ask the government when I may expect the return ordered by this house on March 29 with respect to certain expenditures to be made in the Peace river district?

[Mr. Pouliot.]

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State): I have been expediting all returns as much as possible. If more are available during the day, I shall table them. I cannot tell my hon. friend whether his return will be ready to-day, but I shall look into the matter.

#### CORONATION DAY MAIL DELIVERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): I should like to inquire of the Postmaster General (Mr. Elliott) if he will consider seriously authorizing a minimum postal delivery service on Wednesday, May 12, coronation day?

Hon. J. C. ELLIOTT (Postmaster General): I would say to my hon. friend, who as far as I am aware has not given me any notice of his intention to ask this question, that the matter will receive our best consideration.

#### WAYS AND MEANS

##### CUSTOMS TARIFF

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Customs tariff—519. House, office, cabinet or store furniture of wood, iron or other material, in parts or finished: British preferential tariff, 15 per cent; intermediate tariff, 30 per cent; general tariff, 45 per cent.

Mr. GLEN: When the committee was considering this item on Thursday, I was dealing with the report of the tariff board in connection with the furniture industry. Some interval of time has occurred between Thursday night and this morning, of which I do not complain, but statements have appeared in the press to the effect that a filibuster has been engineered by some insurgent Liberals against the item under discussion. May I say that there has been no concerted move on the part of anyone to create a filibuster against this item. There has simply been an endeavour on the part of some members to give their views in opposition to the item. As the matter falls within the purview of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning), it has been suggested that my argument has been directed solely against the minister. Such is not my intention, and I do not think it would be fair to the Minister of Finance that such an impression should go abroad, because I realize, as all do, that under our system of government to-day we have what is called "cabinet solidarity," and we are now dealing with and discussing an item which represents the consensus of the cabinet.