

and Opposition are. I feel very strongly on this matter.

An hon. MEMBER: Come along this way.

An hon. MEMBER: The pews are all free.

Mr. CALDWELL: I do not feel at home in them.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, and read the third time, and passed.

CANADA SHIPPING ACT—SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS.

Hon. N. W. ROWELL (Minister of Public Health) moved that the amendment made by the Senate to Bill No. 127, to amend the Canada Shipping Act (Sick and Distressed Mariners) be read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. CANNON: What is the nature of the amendment?

Mr. ROWELL: The Bill as passed by this House provided for an increased duty or charge on all vessels entering Canadian ports. The present duty is one and one half cents per ton, and under the Bill it is increased to two cents per ton, the increase to go into effect on the first of January next. The Senate has introduced an amendment providing that the date on which this increased duty shall go into effect may be deferred beyond the first of January next by proclamation of the Governor in Council. Hon. members will recall that when the matter was before the House it was alleged that the effect of the imposition of the present duty was to cause the American Government to impose upon Canadian ships entering American ports a very much higher charge. I intimated to the committee that the Department of Justice was looking into the matter. The Department advise us that they do not think there is any justification under the law for that increased charge being imposed on Canadian vessels entering American ports, and the matter will be taken up with the proper authorities. It may be desirable not to impose the increased duty until that question can be further considered; therefore the Senate amendment may, I think, safely be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Caldwell.]

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS BY SENATE TO BILL 53.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 53, to amend the Civil Service Act, 1918, and the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1919.

Hon. N. W. ROWELL (President of the Privy Council): I beg to move:

(1) That the second amendment made by the Senate to Bill No. 53. "An Act to amend the Civil Service Act 1918, and the Civil Service Act, 1919", be concurred in.

(2) That the first amendment made by the Senate be not concurred in, for the following reason namely:

That such amendment is inconsistent with the principles of the Civil Service legislation embodied in the Civil Service Acts of 1908, 1918 and 1919 and is subversive of the policy of Civil Service reform which has been repeatedly approved by the Parliament of Canada and by the electorate.

The Senate has made two amendments to the Bill. The first, in respect of which I have moved non-concurrence, and which follows section 2 of the Bill as it passed this House, provides that all appointments to the staff of the Senate shall be withdrawn from the provisions of the Civil Service Act; that all the privileges and immunities and powers of the Senate with respect to these appointments which existed prior to the passing of the Civil Service Act of 1908 and of the Acts which have since passed shall be deemed to exist unimpaired, and further, that all privileges, including increase of salary due to re-classification and all other privileges which have accrued to employees of the Senate under the various Civil Service Acts, shall be continued to them, notwithstanding that by the amendment they are withdrawn from the operation of the Act. The position as regards employees of the Senate is this. At the present time the temporary employees, who constitute the majority of the employees of the Senate, are under the control of the Speaker of the Senate, just as the temporary employees who constitute the majority of the employees of this House, are under the control of the Speaker of this House. The Civil Service Act, therefore, applies only to the permanent employees. Under the legislation of 1918 and 1919, there is no change as regards the Senate employees, except a change which is a benefit to the employees through the re-classification and the improved salaries. They were brought under the Civil Service Act by the original Act of 1908, and the action of the Sen-