

able to him, I shall move for Committee of Supply early to-morrow.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think that that will be a more convenient course, and I shall be glad to accede to the right hon. gentleman's (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) suggestion.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals when he intends to proceed with his Bill for the amendment of the Railway Act?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). I intend to proceed with it to-day.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (Leeds). In the absence of the hon. member for Lincoln and Niagara (Mr. Lancaster) and in his behalf, I beg to inquire when the returns moved for by him in the month of April last, in reference to the Speaker's apartments, will be brought down?

Mr. J. D. REID (Grenville). I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) when he intends to bring down the report I asked for on April 18 last. It is a long time since then, and the report is a short one. There must surely be some special reason why it has not been brought down before now.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). The hon. gentleman (Mr. J. D. Reid) asked for a certain report. Afterwards he verbally amended his order. Am I to accept the amended order as the one to be followed?

Mr. J. D. REID. Yes.

Mr. OLIVER. There will be no delay about that.

EXPORTATION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND GAS, &c.

On the order,

House again in committee on Bill (No. 145) to regulate the exportation of electric power and of certain liquids and gases.—Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice). With the permission of the House, I intend to withdraw this Bill standing in my name. But I understand that the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) has some observations to make on the subject, and I shall be glad to have the Bill taken up in committee, that the hon. gentleman may have an opportunity to speak.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

House went into committee on the Bill.

Mr. W. F. COCKSHUTT (Brantford). I understand that the Minister of Justice has decided that this Bill is to be withdrawn. But, through his kindness I have been allowed an opportunity to say a few words on the question before such a withdrawal is made. The Bill before the House is a new departure, so far as the exercise of this government's power in regard to Niagara is concerned; and that is a very important thing. Taken in connection with the report that has recently been circulated by the Department of Public Works with regard to international waterways, it is fraught with a great deal of interest to Ontario, in particular, and especially that part of Ontario that lies within transmission distance of the Niagara river, and I propose to deal as briefly as possible with the position that Ontario occupies in relation to the River Niagara. There has recently, as probably gentlemen in the House will know, sprung up in the United States a very strong agitation with regard to the preservation of the scenic effect, as it is called, of Niagara Falls, and for this purpose a large number of petitions have been sent in, I understand, to this government. A few weeks ago I asked the question in this House how many of these petitions had been received and from what quarter they had come, and the answer, so far as I remember it, was that fourteen of these petitions had come from people in Canada and some 467 from people in the United States, which shows that so far as the preservation of the scenic effect of Niagara Falls is concerned, our friends to the south are very much more anxious to preserve it than the people of Canada are. I fear that there is something more than scenic effect at the bottom of these petitions, and so far as I am able to gather from the circumstances, our friends to the south are actuated, not so much by a desire to preserve the scenic effect, as they are by a fear that the industrial interests of this country will receive an impetus from cheap power that they cannot hope to get, and for this reason they have circulated a vast number of petitions and sent them to this government asking that the scenic effect of Niagara Falls should be preserved. That in itself is a very commendable attitude to take with regard to Niagara, and I do not desire to put myself in antagonism to the preservation of Niagara Falls as one of the great wonders of the world. But it has, or may have, other uses that I think this country, and especially the province of Ontario, cannot afford to overlook, and it is in relation to Niagara Falls as a power producer that I propose to make a few remarks this afternoon.

The Ontario Power Commission was appointed some two and a half years ago to look thoroughly into this question. I had the honour of being selected as one of the