

pared to pass a law to protect our Canadian citizens, and one comporting with the dignity of Canada.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think those hon. members who are interested in this proposed legislation can complain of the spirit in which the First Minister has met the proposition of my hon. friend. It is not merely in the towns immediately along the border that there is a strong feeling on this matter. One hundred and forty miles away from the border, in towns like Moose Jaw and others on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the North-west Territories, there is the strongest feeling existing. Hon. gentlemen will understand how this is the case when I state that we have coming along the railway line from the United States, brakemen, conductors and employees of American railways working in Canada; and the moment that any of our Canadian citizens residing in towns on the Canadian Pacific Railway get down to the American border, that moment they are not permitted to earn money below the line. It is of course barbarous legislation. If we did not know it to be the fact, it would be incredible that an enlightened people like the people of the United States should be guilty of placing it on their statute-books. But if there is that barbarous legislation, and if our Canadian citizens are treated as they are; then if we are convinced that the people of the United States are determined to cling to this barbarous legislation, it will be for this Parliament as a matter of retaliation—while disapproving of the principle underlying such legislation—and as a matter of justice to our own people, to enact some such legislation as my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) proposes.

Mr. TISDALE. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt from the slight attention I have given to this matter, that probably a Bill like this would interfere with the favoured-nations clause under which no doubt the United States have some rights, although perhaps something could be suggested to meet the case. I understand from the remarks made by the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition, that practically the Bill is to be deferred to another session.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, not another session, until the next meeting of the House.

Mr. TISDALE. The leader of the Government made a very reasonable request when he asked, that if there was any correspondence on the matter he should have time to look into it. If some friendly solution of the difficulty is not made with the United States, I would go as far as any man in this House in the direction of the principle involved in the Bill. I am quite satisfied that next session some law could be devised that will not interfere with any existing treaties.

Mr. TAYLOR. What treaties?

Mr. TISDALE. The favoured-nation clause in treaties with other countries in Europe, to which the United States would be entitled.

Mr. BERGERON. There cannot be any such thing. They have passed a similar law against us.

Mr. TISDALE. I think the amendment with regard to the residence might meet the difficulty. I agree with my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), and I am afraid that this House will have to deal with the matter. I regret it, because the people of the United States have not listened to the warnings of the discussions in this House, and which discussions have been of a very friendly character.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). Mr. Speaker, I am very much gratified to know that the leader of the Government is so fully impressed with the importance of the subject under discussion. To all those members who represent frontier counties, it is a matter of more than ordinary importance. I might illustrate that by citing one case. The legislature of New York decided to erect a public building on their side of the River St. Lawrence. I know as a matter coming under my own observation, that Canadian artisans and mechanics who went across the river to obtain employment were sent back, and they were so carefully guarded to the water's edge, that they were placed on the ferry boat and watched until they left the shores of the United States. Strange to say, and in marked contrast to that conduct; the Ontario government erected the same kind of a building, an asylum, a distance of about fourteen miles from the American asylum, and American artisans and mechanics came across to the Canadian side, and were allowed to work on the Canadian building in competition with Canadian mechanics. This is a case which brought the matter very forcibly to my mind, even since the subject was under discussion before this House in 1891, when the matter was fully gone into. I rise more particularly for the purpose of impressing upon the First Minister this fact, which perhaps he has considered. It was the consensus of opinion on the part of all those who took part in the discussion when my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) first introduced his Bill in 1891, that it was not in the minds of the legislators in the United States to enforce this law in the spirit in which it was enacted. If we read the second clause of the Bill introduced by my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor)—which is exactly similar to the clause of the United States act, except that the word "American" is substituted for "Canadian"—we find that the spirit of the Act was directed against contracts made for the importation of foreign labour into the United States. Here is where the United States have, in my humble opinion, interpreted this law contrary to its spirit and its meaning. A man who goes