

ister should proceed to the consideration of the Bill in Committee to-day. Members of the Committee are entitled to know the nature of a Bill before it is considered in Committee.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: This Bill has been upon the Order Paper for some little time, and I was not aware of the fact that it had not been distributed. If hon. members think that under the circumstances we should not take up the Bill in Committee to-day, I am willing to suggest that the Committee should rise. The Bill has been printed and has been distributed.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have a file of all the Bills distributed. The Bill now before us came to me within the last few minutes.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It is on my file.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It is not on mine.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It is on mine, and I do not think I have had any preferential treatment.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My hon. friend has been better served than members on this side. It is not on my file.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Under the circumstances, as there is evidently a mistake, I would suggest that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

MEAT AND CANNED FOODS ACT.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

House proceeded to consider the amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 73, to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act.—Mr. Hazen.

Hon. Mr. HAZEN moved that the amendments made by the Senate be concurred in.

Mr. MACDONALD: This Bill went through the House originally under conditions which provided for extremely onerous changes in connection with the lobster-packing industry. The attention of the House was not directed very closely to the changes, but on the matter coming before the Senate the wholesale effect upon the industry was pointed out, and it was indicated that those changes were of the most radical character and I am advised by gentlemen in my constituency who are connected with the industry and to whom the matter

was referred, that the proposals made by the department in regard to them, as contained in the Bill originally, were of a character that would involve a serious disarrangement of the industry and a very large expenditure of money in connection with carrying out the details of the Bill. The objections which were urged in the Senate to this particular phase of the question were of the most energetic character and the whole case made by the senators from Prince Edward Island who discussed the proposed Act indicated that the effect of this measure would be of the most serious character. Under all these circumstances the House should pay very careful attention to the amendments that have been made by the Senate and I trust that the minister will, at some length and in the clearest possible way, tell us exactly the effect of the legislation as it comes from the Senate.

Incidentally, I would like to ask if the action of the minister in arranging new seasons for catching lobster this year has met with the approval of those engaged in the industry. The extension of the season which, I understand, has been made till the tenth of this month, is also objectionable. I understand that the ground upon which it was done was the desire to increase the supply of food. There was no necessity for any such action in regard to the matter of food. I was amused at some of our good friends in Toronto calling it a perfectly wonderful performance that a car load of good fish had been brought up from the Maritime Provinces through the food controller to Toronto and sold at an extraordinary low rate as though the good people of Toronto and Ontario, who are apt to dictate to the rest of us, had heard for the first time that there are unlimited quantities of fish in the Maritime Provinces. The action of the minister in extending the time for the purpose of providing more food was entirely unnecessary because any one who knows the conditions in the Maritime Provinces knows that the whole thing is a matter of transportation. At this time there is no reason why the conditions should be disrupted with the result that a heavy additional burden will be put upon the people engaged in the fishing industry.

In view of the fact that this measure passed this House without full attention being paid to it, very difficult and almost impossible conditions, as far as the industry is concerned, have been imposed by the Bill and in view of the fact that the Senate very