

situation if the law were changed so as to require pilots to only come ashore at times when customs officers were available. This would be a distinct departure from the practice which has prevailed throughout the years, and one which I doubt would be welcomed by the hon. member or by the great number of men who would be affected.

The department is watching the situation carefully. If any reason occurs for a change—and it might—then a change will be brought in by means of appropriate regulations or by legislation. Of course it will have to be applied to all pilots, from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast, and not just to those in any one area.

SHIPPING

BRITISH COLUMBIA—TAXATION OF WHARVES AND BOAT HOUSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. I apologize for not giving him notice, but it has just come to mind. In view of the urgent importance of this matter to some of my constituents, could the minister inform me when he will be able to give me an answer to the question I asked with respect to provincial taxation on wharves and boat houses, which was asked on May 22?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I thought I might be able to give a reply right now. I hope to be able to do so tomorrow when I have relocated my notes.

IMMIGRATION

REPORTED DENIAL OF ENTRY TO CANADA OF DUTCH FAMILY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Is the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration now in a position to answer the question I asked some time ago about the Dutch family in Halifax?

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I am afraid not satisfactorily. We have been trying without success to locate the son who is in Vancouver somewhere. Unfortunately he has moved about three times and left no forwarding address at any time. Although we have been trying hard we have not located him as yet.

RAILWAY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING REDUCTIONS IN RAIL SERVICE

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-11, to amend the Railway Act.

Railway Act

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is to provide that the board of transport commissioners may, at the request of the interested municipality or municipalities, deal with any proposed reduction of service by any of the railways. My bringing this bill before the house was occasioned by recent action of the Canadian Pacific Railway in my constituency and in south-eastern British Columbia generally. Before this debate is over I trust that I will be receiving the strong support of the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. McFarlane) and the hon. member for Okanagan-Boundary (Mr. Pugh) because I have been informed that a good number of their constituents are also greatly interested in this question.

The action which caused the concern in our district and which has resulted in my introducing this bill is first, the reduction of the service on the Kettle valley railroad by the Canadian Pacific Railway from a standard train service to the present Budd car service; and second, the curtailment to twice weekly of the service between Nelson and Penticton. That is the basis of the discontent that exists in the area at the present time.

So far as my constituency is concerned there is a unanimous protest against this action of the company. It includes members of all parties. That is why I rise to speak with such high hopes and great anticipation with respect to the final disposition of this bill. This afternoon I can truthfully say that I am speaking for thousands of persons who are members of all parties in my constituency and a good many others in the adjoining constituencies. These protests have been evidenced by meetings of chambers of commerce, trade unions, farmers' institutes and municipal councils to deal particularly with the reduction of service that I am going to mention this afternoon.

To indicate the type of protest that is being made at this time as far as chambers of commerce are concerned, here is a letter from Trail addressed to the vice president of the C.P.R. at Vancouver:

Dear Sir:

This committee of the Trail chamber of commerce wishes to express its protest against the recent curtailment of passenger train services to twice weekly between Nelson and Penticton. It is hoped that this is a temporary measure of short duration and that the regular services will be put into effect at an early date.

May we have your assurance on this matter.

Yours very truly,

A. S. Mawdsley,
Chairman,
Transportation, mail and freight
committee,
Trail chamber of commerce.