

bered that the hon. gentleman from Rideau Division moved an amendment which is now to be found in section 6 of chapter 51 of the Acts of last year. The early part of the section provides for the punishment of persons who cause, or knowingly or wilfully permit any noxious substance, saw-dust, mill rubbish, &c., to pass into any river, and at the end of the section there is this proviso :

Provided always that this subsection shall not go into operation as to mills and streams which have been heretofore exempted until the 1st of May, 1895.

So that on the day after to-morrow the general law laid down in the earlier part of the section, a portion of which I have read, will apply to the Ottawa River. That is a very desirable condition of things. The hon. gentleman satisfied the Senate that this action was necessary ; that the Ottawa River had been very seriously damaged by allowing saw-dust and mill refuse to pass into it ; and he succeeded in inducing this House to make the amendment, which has been indicated, to the measure of last year. Inasmuch as we have had no official information that it is intended to repeal section 6 of the Act of last year, I cannot see why the hon. gentleman should ask for information now. The House had sufficient information last year to induce it to take the action to which he refers, and unless it is proposed to undo that action, I fail to see what useful end is to be gained by bringing down information which is in the hands of the government.

Hon. Mr. CLEWOW—The hon. gentleman is perfectly correct in what he says, but I understand that the parties aggrieved do intend to endeavour to have the Act repealed or modified, and it is desirable, therefore, to have this information before the House. I believe that some measure will soon be brought down to modify the law and, in order to prepare for that contingency, I have asked for the papers.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—There is no objection to the motion being acceded to. As the hon. gentleman has stated, the interested parties, mill owners, have during the recess moved and had meetings concerning the lumbering interest, especially at Ottawa, and it is likely that some bill may be introduced in the other House, or perhaps in the Senate, to modify the Act and save the

lumbering interests in this section of the country and some other interests on the St. John (which is an international river) where the law applies uselessly from the fact that on the American side they can throw as much saw-dust as they choose, and the mill owners on the Canadian side would be deprived of the advantage enjoyed by their competitors. It would be putting our mill owners and our lumber trade at a disadvantage compared with the American mills on the other side.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am quite satisfied now as to the reason why the hon. gentleman requires the information, and I am glad to see that he has taken time by the forelock. I may say that the dread which he expresses is perhaps strengthened—at least the probability that some such action was in contemplation is strengthened—by the fact that the Department of Marine and Fisheries last year employed an officer to inspect the rivers in various parts of the country with a view of ascertaining how much mischief the depositing of saw-dust was causing, and I understand that since the change in the headship of the Department of Marine and Fisheries the work has been discontinued and the officer who was engaged in the work has been recalled to the capital. That would appear to indicate a change in the policy consequent upon the change of ministry.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Some few years ago this subject was referred to a committee of this House, of which I had the honour of being chairman, and a very full and exhaustive examination was made of quite a large number of witnesses on the subject. The report (which I presume will be brought down upon this motion) clearly recommended that steps should be taken to prevent the destruction of the Ottawa River by sawdust being thrown into it from the mills at the Chaudière. The expression of the Committee was so strong at the time, and the report was so unanimously adopted by the House, that it was thought it would not prove a dead letter as it has done ; but unfortunately the preservation of our rivers from destruction has been altogether overlooked in consequence of the great influence of the mill owners with the government. I quite sympathize with my hon. friend from Ottawa on this matter. I think he repre-