macy with the United States, and failing to secure a satisfactory result, then we would be in a position that even the great country alongside of this Dominion would see that we had no alternative but to fall back on a measure that we were most unwilling to resort to it if it could possibly be avoided.

Mr. TAYLOR. When the First Minister is looking into the correspondence, which he will no doubt find in the archives of the Secretary of State, I trust he will ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to show him the correspondence that took place between that department and the deputation that came from Washington, because the Alien Labour law is referred to in connection with the International Park arrangement.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 10th September, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 24) to incorporate the Hudson's Bay Canal and Navigation Company.—(Mr. Boyd.)

BEHRING SEA COMMISSION.

Mr. PRIOR. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the hon. the First Minister whether he can give the House any information as to whether the Government has received any confirmation of the reports which have appeared in the papers with regard to seizures of Canadian vessels in the Behring Sea by American authorities. Also, whether the date has been fixed for the meeting of the commission appointed to settle the claims of the sealers. Also, whether the Government have already appointed counsel to appear on behalf of the Canadian sealers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). With respect to the report which has appeared in the papers as to the seizure of some Canadian vessels, I may say that the information of the department is just exactly that which has been published—nothing more nor less. With respect to the date on which the commission will sit, we have no intimation as yet of any agreement having been arrived at, but no doubt the date will be a convenient one for both countries—early this autumn. The question of the appointment of counsel is still under consideration. I have had communications from gentlemen who have claims, stating that they intend to employ private counsel of their own, if that were not inconsistent with the wish of the Government. I have replied that the Government certainly could have no objection to anything of the kind, and that, no doubt, the counsel appointed will act in unison and conjunction with the Government counsel, although, necessarily, the counsel appointed by the Government will have control of the case.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL—PORTFOLIO OF THE INTERIOR.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I beg to lay upon the Table some further correspondence on the subject of the motion that was carried the other day, calling for the correspondence between Sir Charles Tupper and His Excellency the Governor General. The other day, my attention was called to the portfolio of the Interior. Well, I am not prepared at present to say definitely when the portfolio will be filled, but it is the intention of the Government to offer it to some gentleman from the North-west. At present, however, there are good reasons, in the public interest, why some further delay is desirable.

RIGHT HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I suppose we must be thankful for small favours. The information is not very complete, but the hon. gentleman, I hope, will be in a position at an early day to state exactly what the Government propose to do in this regard. I rise, however, at this moment, to call the attention of the First Minister to a statement in the "Mail and Empire" newspaper, coming from the special correspondent in Montreal, which I read with the greatest possible regret, and I am quite sure that the First Minister will be only too glad to be afforded the opportunity of setting the matter right. In the "Mail and Empire" of 9th September, the following appears from the special correspondent in Montreal:—

> According to "La Patrie," the Liberal organ, Mr. Chamberlain will not visit Canada because he knows very well that Mr. Laurier will have nothing to do with him or his Imperial schemes. Mr. Laurier is not looking after the interests of Englishmen.