

advisable that we should proceed this session. I desire to refer to another matter, and it is this. We have had a good deal of difficulty on the River St. Lawrence in the section known as the Thousand Island district. The American authorities, acting under the Alien Labour Law, refused our oarsmen permission to ply to and fro between their parks, and would not allow them to row Americans who came there for pleasure, rest and fishing; in fact they would not allow them to take tourists in their boats from the American side into Canadian waters to fish.

Mr. LISTER. You settled that by issuing a proclamation.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, I issued a proclamation. I sent word to the hotel-keepers on the American side that if this state of affairs was going to continue, American visitors could not fish in Canadian waters.

The PRIME MINISTER. That was an abuse of the law, it was not enforcing the Alien Labour Law.

Mr. TAYLOR. The result of the proclamation was that a deputation went from Alexandria Bay and Clayton to Washington, and made representations that if their guests were not allowed to fish in Canadian waters, they might as well close the hotels; and so instructions came from Washington to permit a violation of the law and not prevent Canadians going over to the American side. Negotiations were opened a year or two ago between the American and Canadian Governments to have an international park established between Kingston and Prescott as a common fishing resort among the islands, which would be open to the people of the United States and Canada as well, and where there would be no enforcement of the Alien Labour law. A deputation of Congressmen came to Ottawa, and met the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with a few representative men, and a basis of agreement was drawn up and entered into under which legislation was to be passed by the Canadian authorities and the American authorities, and one of the conditions stipulated in that agreement was that the Washington authorities were to withdraw the enforcement of the Alien Labour law within the district named, between Ogdensburg and Cape Vincent. The gentlemen from the United States said it might be possible to get an amendment to the law to apply simply to that section of our country, but the idea of repealing or meddling with their Alien Labour law was impossible, for such a measure could not be passed through Congress. The result is that although an agreement was then entered into between the Canadian authorities and the American authorities respecting the fishing at the International Park, the legislation to be passed, which was an amendment to the Alien Labour law, has not been passed by Congress

Mr. TAYLOR.

in regard to that territory, and I doubt whether it ever will be passed. I offer this suggestion to the First Minister: If he will permit this Bill to be referred to a special committee, that committee might be moving conjointly with the hon. gentleman, and while he was carrying on negotiations, they might decide on this Bill in some amended form or another Bill covering the point to which I have referred. If this proposition is not acceptable to the hon. gentleman, I will readily yield to the suggestion made by him.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the suggestion is one that will not meet with the approbation of the people of this country. We have been waiting long, and on every occasion we have waited and expostulated with the authorities of the United States they have made their laws more stringent. It will be remembered that when the Alien Labour law was passed, it was stated it would not apply to Canada. It has applied to Canada, and the interpretation put upon it from time to time either by the legal authorities of the United States Government or by the Government officials administering the law on the border, have been more stringent each year. I think it has now reached that stage when waiting will not do any good. As to the proposition made by the Prime Minister, that negotiations will probably take place between the two Governments, and those negotiations will perhaps tend to remove the difficulties occasioned by this Alien Labour law, in my opinion the negotiations would be more effective and more productive of good results if the United States authorities found we had an alien labour law on the statute-book, identical with their law. As it stands now, we can only go to them and threaten, declaring that if you do not remove this law we will place a similar law on the statute-book of Canada; but if we had that law on our statute-book to-day we would be in a different position. As the leader of the Opposition has very properly stated, it is a different question adopting retaliatory legislation of this character by one country, and another country adopting similar legislation in self-defence. We are proposing to adopt it in self-defence, in protecting our men along the boundary, and in order to maintain our dignity as a great nation. For these reasons I consider the time has now arrived when Canada should place a Bill of this kind on the statute-book of the country. I am glad to see that the Premier and the leader of the Opposition are practically agreed as to the desirability of something being done, if not to-day at the next session of Parliament; and as the Government do not propose to pass any legislation this session, and as next session will be called very shortly, it should be clearly understood by this House that if negotiations are not conducted with good results before next session, Parliament will be pre-