

injustice, as they applied to us. I would not care, however, to go one single step further than is absolutely necessary in order to maintain not only our dignity, but the possibility—I look to that more than to anything else—of having this obnoxious law removed at some time or other. I stated my conviction during last session, and it is my conviction to-day, that in framing such legislation, we should simply adopt the American law, such as it is, word for word. My hon. friend the mover of this Bill has embodied in it the text of a Bill which, luckily for us, did not become law. It is true the Corliss Bill was passed by Congress, and, being vetoed by the President, it failed to get the requisite majority in the Senate, perhaps only for want of time, although it got more than the requisite majority in the House of Representatives. Therefore, the Corliss Bill is not the law of the United States to-day; and that being the case, for my part, I do not think it would be advisable to make it the law of Canada. I would strictly limit the law that is to be enacted by this Parliament to a copy, word for word, of the American law as it exists to-day. I offer this suggestion to the House. With regard to the proper course to be taken on this Bill, I have conferred with my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor), who, it is only his due to say, has taken a deep interest in this matter for many years; and he has agreed with the mover of this Bill that it would be proper to have it referred to a select committee. With regard to the powers of the select committee, I have consulted both friends and opponents of the Government from all parts of the country, and I think that it would be conducive to good results if this committee were clothed with the power to hold an investigation. The effects of this law have been confined to certain portions of the country. It has been limited chiefly to the town of Niagara and Windsor and the Thousand Islands. In so far as my information goes, this law has not been applied in Maine or Vermont or other parts of the Eastern States. Therefore, I think the committee should be empowered to hold an investigation and ascertain what are the effects of this law, in so far as they can apply to one section of Canada or another, and I propose that, when read the second time, the Bill should be referred to a committee which has been agreed on between the two sides of the House.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). Will the Bill of the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) be referred to the same committee?

The PRIME MINISTER. Certainly.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The PRIME MINISTER moved:

Mr. LAURIER.

That Bill (No. 5) to restrict the importation and employment of aliens, be referred to a Special Committee to be composed of Hon. Messrs. Davies, Sifton, Wood, Langellier, and Messrs. Casgrain, Taylor and Cowan, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses under oath, and to report from time to time.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to ask the hon. First Minister if it is intended that this should become law during this session. To report from time to time means that the Bill may be delayed for a very considerable period and possibly not become law this session.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman, being an old parliamentarian, knows that when a Bill is referred to a committee it is in the hands of the committee and not of the Government, but I may say that the Government has no intention in referring the Bill to a committee, to have it killed by the committee.

Mr. TAYLOR moved second reading of Bill (No. 6) to prohibit the Importation and Immigration of Foreigners and Aliens under contract or agreement to perform labour in Canada.

Mr. HENDERSON. I have no desire to open up the discussion again on this Bill, as the two measures are very nearly the same. I said nothing on the former occasion, and desire simply to reiterate what has been said by many members of this House. I regret that we are pledged to enact legislation of this character. Representing an industrial county, where there is a great deal of labour employed, I may say that in that section of the country in which I reside, the sentiment in favour of this legislation is very strong indeed, and I have no hesitation whatever in supporting the very strongest measure that I believe the First Minister will be willing to give his approval to. I think that the legislation we should enact along this line should be, word for word, letter for letter, the American legislation. This, at any rate, is the character of the legislation called for by the section of the country I come from, and I trust this Bill will become law this session.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The PRIME MINISTER moved:

That Bill No. 6 be referred to the committee on Bill No. 5.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.