

the most part to maintain order, and to enforce the regulations in the harbors of Montreal and Quebec. To a very great extent these are local, and therefore I do not think it would be fair that the charges which are necessary for the enforcement of these local rules and regulations should be borne by the country at large. If in any way the charges by the St. Lawrence route could be reduced, I should be glad to see it done, and I hope, in the course of time, that ingenuity will suggest some way; but it is very difficult, because of the extent of the Dominion, and what is due to other localities. If the charges were taken off the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the ports of Montreal and Quebec, under what circumstances, and for what reasons, shall we maintain such a force? What interest, except as belonging to one country, have the inhabitants of other parts of the Dominion in the reductions of charges to be made in those ports?

HON. MR. TRUDEL—I would ask the Government to consider whether in the interest of the public generally it would not be well not to augment the charges. I admit at once that it is perfectly reasonable that those expenses which arise from local difficulties in the harbors of those cities should be met by local charges, but if one of the consequences of those charges is to prevent trade going by the St. Lawrence and to divert it to the harbors of the United States, and if the country loses more by that than it would by assuming these charges, I think it would be reasonable for the Government to bear the expense. I simply call the attention of the Government to the matter.

HON MR POWER—The hon. Senator from De Salaberry seems to be under the impression that this Bill imposes new charges on shipping entering the ports of Montreal and Quebec. I understand that it is merely continuing the charges which have been paid since 1867. There is no augmentation of the duties at all, and I was very glad to hear the hon. Minister of Justice speak as he did on this subject.

HON. MR. RYAN.—It would appear to be uncertain as to whether new charges are to be imposed or not because there is an important blank in the Bill to be filled

up. When that is done, we shall see what the charges on ships are to be. There is a peculiarity in the system which has prevailed hitherto with regard to ships entering the harbours of Quebec and Montreal, and that is, that while the police can be employed for other services, throughout the country, a large portion of that charge comes upon the shipping interest. In saying this, I do not wish it to be at all supposed that I mean to object to proper and fair charges being imposed upon the shipping interest either of Montreal or of Quebec, to the shipping interests of which ports this Act applies. It will appear when that blank, which is still in the Bill, is filled up, whether the charge is to be as formerly reasonable or excessive, and it will be time enough then to pronounce upon it; but I repeat that it is a peculiarity in this Bill that shipping is made to pay a tax which is not entirely for the benefit of that interest, but a large proportion of which goes to other interests which require protection. I believe the shipping interests of Canada, or rather of the two ports of Quebec and Montreal, as long as they are fairly well protected, and such occurrences as have taken place previous to this are prevented by the efficient exercise of Government Police, will have no objection to pay for that protection; but they expect that this will be done, and they also expect that the charge will be moderate.

I take it for granted that the Government in bringing in this measure have ascertained the views of the important shipping interest of those two larger ports, and I trust that they are acting in such a way as will not prove objectionable to that interest. I take it for granted, and I dare say the Hon. the Minister will be kind enough to state, that they have assented to, and concurred in the views of the Government upon this subject.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I would be very glad to give my hon. friend the assurance, if I had it in my power to do so. The Bill is the result of an application made to the Department of Justice by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Some papers have been sent in, I see, from Montreal and Quebec, and I have no doubt that the views contained in them have been duly considered. I think I said before that the police were not em-