

of them, and the other Bills are carried on division. Perhaps hon. gentlemen would prefer to-night that the second reading be taken on division, and when the Bills come from the Committee we can take a vote on the third reading of one of them.

Mr. LAURIER. This is not a question of party, and anything the hon. gentleman may suggest in regard to the matter will be acceptable.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I make this suggestion because these Bills have no reference to party. I do it in order to set myself right, because we generally divide on some of these Bills.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). There may be a difference in regard to some of these Bills themselves and it may be that some of them are not entitled to pass.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The hon. Minister is assuming that they pass in the usual way.

Bill read the second time on a division.

DIVORCE BILLS—SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 133) for the relief Thomas Bristow—on a division.—(Mr. O'Brien.)

Bill (No. 134) for the relief of Isabel Tapley—on a division.—(Mr. Wallace.)

Bill (No. 132) for the relief of Mahala Ellis—on a division.—(Mr. Taylor.)

SAWDUST ON LA HAVE RIVER, N.S.

House resumed further consideration of the proposed motion of Mr. Kaulbach :

That an Order of the House do issue for Return of all letters, correspondence, petitions and papers between all persons and the Department of Marine and Fisheries relating to sawdust on the La Have River, Lunenburg County, N.S., with the object of having the river relieved from the operation of the said Act,

and the motion of Mr. Flint in amendment :

That the following words be added at the end thereof: "Also, a list of rivers and streams exempted from the operations of the Act, and a Return of all letters, correspondence, petitions and papers between all persons and the Department of Marine and Fisheries relating to such exemptions."

Mr. TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I shall have to trespass on the House for some length in discussing this question, although I occupied a good deal of the time of the House when the subject was up on a previous occasion. The reason I was compelled to do so I mentioned at that time, and I need not repeat it now. My remarks, I think, at that time were confined largely to the river that is mentioned in the motion before the House in connection with the administration of this law so far as regard La Have River in the Province of Nova Scotia. I have endeavoured to point out to the House, whether rightly or wrongly, whether guided by a proper appreciation of the spirit of the Sawdust Act or not, that I have endeavoured, so far as I possibly could, to see that the wishes and intention of Parliament were carried out, in reference to that river, whether the county at that time happened to be represented by a political opponent as it was when first this question came up, or whether it is represented as it is now, I am glad to say, by an hon. gentleman who is in accord with the trade policy and general policy of this Government. It was, and it is much to my regret that I have not

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

had the support of either of these gentlemen in connection with the administration of this law. I will not repeat the many careful and elaborate enquiries which have been made, and to which the attention of the House has been drawn, but just now I happen to have in my possession a recent report from Lieut. Gordon which I will read to the House. I stated the other day that the inspector for that district had, in a late report, given his reasons for suggesting that the law should be suspended in the River La Have. That is the result which both my friends, the member for Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach) and Mr. Eisenhauer, in this House were very anxious should come about. I cannot myself appreciate the reasons given by the inspector of the district. The facts upon which his report was based seem to me to be entirely contradictory to the enquiry that had taken place a very short time previously under the auspices of a man in whose opinion I have certainly the very greatest confidence; that is Lieut. Gordon, the present commander of the fishery protection fleet on the coast of Nova Scotia, a man who for years has been entrusted with that great responsibility, and who during that time has given intelligent and unremitting attention to the question, relating to the fisheries on the coast. I am sure his reports placed before this House from year to year, elaborate as they have been, have commanded the respect and confidence of all the members of the House who have had their attention drawn to them. That gentleman made a careful enquiry—a much more elaborate enquiry than the present inspector—he took his ship, the *Acadia*, into the river as far as he could, and taking the boat and a gauge he proceeded up the river, with I believe some of these gentlemen who are especially interested in having the river exempted from the operation of this law. Having made this investigation he reported his conclusions in the Annual Report for 1889, and he gave then, not only a statement as to the result of his soundings, but he gave also the profiles of these soundings, showing the actual depth of the river now, as well as the depth shown by the admiralty charts, and consequently the change that had taken place because of the heavy and large deposits of sawdust. Now, I wish to mention to the House that at this date, having before him the arguments which have been so strongly urged by the different hon. gentlemen who have addressed the House on this subject; having these placed before him in the newspaper of the district, he is as strong as ever in his opinion and in his advice to me, that the law should be carried out and enforced, and his reasons summarized are briefly as follows. I hope the House will bear with me while I read these reasons from a memorandum which I have drawn up from his report which will be brought before the House :

"Lieutenant Gordon contends the La Have should not be exempted from the operation of the Act respecting sawdust and mill rubbish, because a stream frequented by anadromous fish should not be exempt, for if so harm will be done these fish, and the welfare of the coastal sea-fishing depends very much upon the success of anadromous fishing. This year owing to the scarcity of bait anadromous fishing would have been specially valuable, and instead of having to get bait from elsewhere as was the case, bank fishermen would have been able to procure it at their own doors. This state of things on the La Have is due to the deposit of sawdust in the river."

I may explain, although to many members of the House the facts are well known, that we have been considerably handicapped by the operation of the