

where the circumstances may warrant it, to grant payment of a portion of any such penalty to the informer, if he is not the Inspector. The Inspector is included under this clause, as it is in the existing Act, because it is his duty to lay information where he finds there has been an infraction of the law. The amendment is in the right direction. There have been many cases in which parties have unnecessarily interfered with the trade for no other purpose than to receive a portion of the fine. The Department think it much better, under the circumstances, that it should be left to the Governor in Council to say whether any or what portion of the fine should be paid to the informer. The object of this Bill is simply to make the Act more workable than it is at present.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the second time.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I congratulate the Government on the change made by the second clause. Under the existing law half of the fine in each case goes to the informer; under this clause it goes to the Receiver-General. I think it is a decided improvement.

Hon. Mr. MACINNES (Burlington), from the Committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed under a suspension of the rule.

## HARBOUR AND RIVER POLICE BILL.

### SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL moved the second reading of Bill (97) "An Act to amend the Act respecting the Harbour and River Police of the province of Quebec." He said:—This is a very small and unpretentious Bill, but it is somewhat important to the shipping interests of the country. Under the present law, power is vested in the Governor in Council to appoint river and harbour police in the cities of Montreal and Quebec. That is optional. The river police of Montreal has been abolished for two or three years. The river police of Quebec is to be abolished, so far as the Dominion Gov-

ernment is concerned; no appropriation is taken for payment of the river police. There is an imperative law upon the Statute-book compelling the shipping to pay certain fees out of which the river and harbour police were formerly paid. The object of this bill is to repeal that clause, which imposes the tax upon the tonnage of the shipping that comes into the harbour. If the Government should find it advisable, and in the interest of the country, to continue the river police at either of these cities, then they can continue to impose it, but in case they should abolish the police at Quebec, as has been done at Montreal, there is no reason why the shipping should be taxed, and the object of the Bill is simply to relieve the shipping of the dues which are now collected.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—Does this mean that the river police at Quebec will be abolished this summer?

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—Yes. It is proposed to pursue the same course in reference to the river police at Quebec that has been pursued in reference to the river police at Montreal. The river and harbour police will in future be under the management and control of the municipal authorities of the city of Quebec as they are at Montreal.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the second time.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL, from the Committee reported the Bill without amendment.

The bill was then read the third time and passed under a suspension of the rule.

## PUBLIC OFFICERS ACT.

### SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL moved the second reading of Bill (103) "An Act respecting Public Officers." He said:—This Bill is simply for the purpose of giving the Governor in Council the power to declare what officers should come within the meaning of the word "Public Officers." Under the law now, commissions are issued to officers who are appointed to any position of a permanent character, and a small fee is charged for