

of Esquimalt, upon which there are lighthouses, and there are persons living there. Previously there was no reason for bringing this matter under public notice, but now that these islands are inhabited, and are likely to be more thickly populated, the time has arrived when the ambiguity which exists in my own mind and in the minds of the people there, and especially in the minds of the revising officers, should be set at rest. They should know whether they belong to the electoral district of Victoria or to Vancouver.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### ADULTERATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 108) to amend the Adulteration Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolution:—

That it is expedient further to amend the "Weights and Measures Act of 1879," and to empower the Governor in Council to define what weights, measures and weighing machines shall be admitted to verification.

Mr. BLAKE. Explain.

Mr. COSTIGAN. The only change effected by this resolution is to define what weights and measures shall be verified, and what shall not. The Act of 1879 gave the Governor in Council power to make regulations in regard to this matter, but doubts have since arisen, and this is intended to remove those doubts.

Mr. McMULLEN. Is it intended that the Governor in Council shall decide what manufacturers shall be compelled to have their weights verified, and what shall not?

Mr. COSTIGAN. That power has been exercised by the Department ever since the Act of 1879, but it is a question whether the Department had the power, and this is intended to remove the doubt.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. BLAKE. I can hardly conceive that the Minister understood the question of my hon. friend, otherwise he would not have given it an affirmative answer. My hon. friend enquired whether it was the intention to empower the Governor in Council to prescribe to manufacturers what machines of weight and measure should be admitted to verification.

Mr. COSTIGAN. The power that has been exercised up to the present time is to define what weights and measures shall be deemed fit for public use.

Mr. BLAKE. Would the hon. gentleman state what has been done in countries where there has been legislation of this description—whether the regulations have been made by the Governor in Council, or by the Legislative body?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I have not looked into this question. I have simply been advised that there is room for doubt, under the Act as it now stands, as to whether this power is really given to the Governor in Council.

Mr. BLAKE. Who has raised the doubts?

Mr. COSTIGAN. The attention of the Department was called to the fact that there was a doubt.

Mr. BLAKE. Have Orders in Council been passed as a matter of fact, defining the classes of weights and measures

for classification? And is it proposed at present to make any change in the classification?

Mr. COSTIGAN. No; of course, it simply legalises the Order in Council.

Mr. McMULLEN. This matter undoubtedly affects all classes of business men in the country, and those who will be under the necessity of purchasing weights and measures; and if the Government intend to take to themselves this power, it ought to be explicitly defined.

Mr. BLAKE. I would like to know what Orders in Council have been passed under the authority of this Act, and how far the hon. gentleman has undertaken, under the authority of this Act, to go beyond the defining of the materials and the proportions of weights and measures to be admitted to verification.

Mr. COSTIGAN. So far as Orders in Council are concerned, I do not think this would change the Act or give any greater powers than we already have. The Governor in Council has the power to define the dimensions and proportions of weights and measures, and the material of which they may be made, and those that are not of such material and such dimensions shall not be certified. For instance, a manufacturer will send to us samples of balances or scales that he makes, and these are tested by the Inspector of Standards. No complaints have been received as to the working of the Order in Council.

Mr. BLAKE. The meaning of the hon. gentleman's proposal is this: that he wants to superadd a negative to an affirmative, and I do not believe it is at all necessary. If I rightly understand the effect of the whole law, it is that unverified weights, balances and weighing machines are not lawful to be sold or used. Verification is essential to their lawful sale and use to-day. The law provides that the Governor in Council may make regulations for the materials and proportions, and so forth, of the machines which may be verified, and unless a particular machine, weight or balance complies with those regulations, it cannot be verified, and being unverified it cannot be sold or used. So that negative exists now; but what the hon. gentleman proposes in the motion is that the Governor in Council shall be empowered to define what weights, measures and machines shall be admitted to verification, not what shall not be admitted, which is quite unnecessary, because if none can be sold except those admitted to verification by the Governor in Council he has at present sufficient power to declare what shall be admitted to verification, and you want no more power. The trouble is the different form of words used in the proposal and in the Act, for, while the Act speaks of proportions and materials, it is now proposed that the Governor in Council shall have authority to declare the specific machines which shall be admitted to verification. The hon. gentleman has not made good his proposition.

Mr. COSTIGAN. The section I propose to add to the Act cannot do any harm. If this resolution is allowed to pass I will simply introduce the Bill, and before the next stage I will consider the suggestions made by the hon. gentleman, and if the section is not necessary I will not press it.

Resolution concurred in and reported.

Mr. COSTIGAN introduced Bill (No. 109) to further amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1879.

#### THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask what arrangements the Government propose to make in regard to the Easter adjournment?