

On section 11,

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It seems to me that 35 grains of sulphur to 100 cubic feet is a very large proportion.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I have already explained that this extension of sulphur in the manufacture of gas was found necessary, on long experience, and at the same time it will not be injurious to the public health.

In answer to Mr. STAIRS,

Mr. COSTIGAN. The only evidence I have of the necessity of shortening the time is the evidence that comes chiefly from our own office. It is based principally upon the experience of the whole country.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What are the departmental regulations for enabling a purchaser to be sure that he gets the quality of light mentioned in the second section? Under the prevailing regulations can any consumer send for the gas inspector and get him to test the quality of gas used by him?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I cannot say at present. I will get the information for the hon. gentleman if he wishes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It would be desirable. Is there any scale of fees fixed for the inspector?

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes.

Bill, as amended, reported, and read the third time and passed.

CERTIFICATES OF MASTERS AND MATES ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. McLELAN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 116) to amend An Act respecting certificates of Masters and Mates of Ships, and The Seamen's Act, 1878.

Motion agreed to; and Bill considered in Committee, amended and reported.

EASTERN EXTENSION—INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved the second reading of Bill (No. 125) for giving an effect to an agreement therein mentioned between the Government of the Dominion and that of Nova Scotia.

Motion agreed to, and Bill considered in Committee and reported.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Is it not intended to make the agreement a schedule to this Bill?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The Bill refers to an agreement, and an agreement is mentioned in the Bill. In such cases the usual course is to attach the agreement as a schedule.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no agreement—there was nothing more than an exchange of letters.

Mr. BLAKE. In order to be quite sure, I desire to ask the Minister of Railways whether I quite apprehended his view as to what the practical results to the Dominion would be by the passage of this Bill. As I gathered from him, and endeavoured to repeat after him, the hon. gentleman was of opinion that the Pictou Branch is a remunerative branch by itself, and that the practical result of the running of the railways, the Pictou Branch which we retain by this agreement, and the extension which we are gaining by this agreement,

will be to leave us where we stand; that is to say, that the working expenses and the receipts would about balance themselves.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, that is substantially the case. What I mean to say is this: that the loss which was sustained by losing the Pictou Branch would of course leave our financial position in regard to the Intercolonial minus a certain sum of money, and I anticipate the result of this arrangement will be to leave us in as good a position as we would occupy if we lost the Pictou Branch, because we recover the interest on the money provided by this Bill by the revenue we will receive. So that financially the position of the Government will be about the same as it would be if this Bill did not pass.

Mr. BLAKE. And the Pictou branch was lost to us. In a word, taking the Pictou Branch and the extension together, does the hon. gentleman think the receipts will cover the working expenditure; or does he anticipate they will cover more than the working expenses of the two lines?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; the amount will meet the interest. I consider that the financial position will be quite as good as it would be if this proposal were not carried, because if we lose the Pictou Branch we lose net profits which are considerable. The cost of acquiring both lines and of operating them will leave us with a net revenue about sufficient to meet the interest on the money expended under this Bill.

Bill read the third time and passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 120) to amend The Weights and Measures Act of 1879.

Motion agreed to; and Bill considered in Committee, and progress reported.

ENQUIRIES INTO SHIPWRECKS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. McLELAN moved the second reading of Bill (No. 117) to amend The Act respecting enquiries into shipwrecks and other matters, as to the power of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in certain cases reported to him under it.

Mr. BLAKE. Does the hon. gentleman propose to introduce an amendment of the kind suggested in the former suggestion, to the effect that the owner or master, or other party affected, should have some notice.

Mr. McLELAN. I propose to make a change in Committee.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. McLELAN moved that after the word "thereon," in the eleventh line, the following words be inserted: "after due notice to the person or persons interested."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. WELDON. How are the parties interested to know the result of the investigation in case they happen to be absent. At present the decision is promulgated in open court, and there is an appeal to the Minister. Under this Bill, however, the whole matter might be settled without the knowledge of the parties.

Mr. McLELAN. I provide by the amendment that due notice is to be given.