

had been unnecessarily long, I waived the right of the Department and told the parties to go into court. If a case of that kind was brought under the notice of the Government, the Government would waive their right and allow the case to go into court.

Mr. PATERSON. Would the hon. gentleman give me an assurance that he will allow the party I have in my mind to bring the matter into court? I think that in this case the fault was with the Department, that the parties were not notified in time. But however that may be, the decision of the Department was adverse, and the parties consider themselves very unfairly treated; would the hon. gentleman allow the Department to waive its right and allow these parties to take the matter into court?

Mr. BOWELL. No doubt the importer, when the decision is against him, always thinks he is badly used. I am not prepared to say what I will do under the circumstances, but if the hon. gentleman will give me the case, and if the facts connected with it are as he stated, I will have no objection to grant what he asks, but I should be very sorry to pledge myself to say that he should have a right until I know what the facts of the case are.

Mr. PATERSON. I had better do that privately?

Mr. BOWELL. If the hon. gentleman will do that privately or in writing, I will give him an answer.

Bill reported.

MAINTENANCE OF FORTIFICATIONS.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved the second reading of Bill (No. 124) respecting fortifications and military buildings and their maintenance and repairs.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will explain the reasons for this Bill.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I explained the Bill on moving the first reading. It is purely and simply to transfer to the Department of Militia the control, management and repair of all military buildings, forts and fortifications in Canada.

Mr. BLAKE. I know the hon. gentleman explained the provisions of the Bill; I said the reasons for the Bill.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The reasons are that it is considered that these works would be attended to perhaps more economically, or perhaps more scientifically if they were under the Department of Militia, and therefore, as far as I am concerned, I have not the least objection that they should be transferred to my hon. friend the Minister of Militia.

Mr. MACKENZIE. This is in fact a confession that the Minister of Public Works is unable to discharge the duties of his office, as they have been understood up to this time.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am sure that my hon. friend will not suppose that I could not attend to those duties. But I think, under this Bill, the duties will be perhaps performed with more science than they could be by my own officers. They are not military officers, they are not military engineers, and perhaps, when we have to deal with fortifications and those works, it will be better that those officers, with the benefit of their science and knowledge, should have the performance of those duties. Therefore, we thought it would be better that this portion of the duties of my office should be transferred to my colleague, the hon. the Minister of Militia. I need not assure my hon. predecessor that I still have quite work enough to occupy my time.

Mr. MACKENZIE. This is an attempt practically to create a new department under the Militia Minister, for it

will bloom out into a Royal Engineer Department. It is quite sure to be the case. The Government is expanding in all directions, and, while another Minister has not enough work to do at home, but must go to England to perform a portion of it, the Minister of Public Works is quite competent, and his Department is quite competent to do all the work; and it is out of the question that, because the gallant Minister of Militia is a military man and competent to take charge of an army, he should be also competent to take charge of an architect's office. There is nothing of a scientific nature to be done at present. When fortifications have to be erected and great camps are laid out, something will occur which is not in existence at present, and, until something arises which necessitates such a division of labour, I think it better that all public works should be attended to in the Department of Public Works. If I am not mistaken, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has given up the attempt which was made some years ago to carry on large works under an officer of that Department. The engineer who was in that Department at that time is not there now, and only trifling works are now constructed by that Department, large lighthouses falling under the Public Works Department, as they ought to do. But now we have a departure in another Department in another direction, in a wrong direction, and I enter my protest against it as totally uncalled for.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. In answer to my hon. friend, I may say that he is mistaken about the Department of Marine and Fisheries. That Department has the building of its own lighthouses, and the maintenance and care of those works. They are not under the care of my Department. That existed during the Administration of my hon. friend, and since, under the Administration of the First Minister here. Of course, in the erection of piers and so on, these large works are under the control of my Department, but, when these piers and wharves are built, they are under the control of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; otherwise the business of my Department would be such that I could not perform the duties. In this case, these works will be repaired and maintained by my hon. friend the Minister of Militia, and, if large works are to be undertaken, of course the Department of Public Works will have to undertake them, as in the past, but the maintenance of these is considered to be better in the hands of the Department of Militia than the Department of Public Works. For example, at Kingston and Quebec, they have a number of men who could be usefully employed in keeping up these walls, as it is done under the Imperial Government in their fortified towns. I think that altogether it would be better that this system should be adopted.

Mr. CHARLTON. I notice that this Bill is not printed in French. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works took exception the other night to proceeding with a Bill because, not the Bill, but an amendment to the Bill, was not printed in French. Perhaps he will show the same regard now for his fellow-countrymen who speak French as he did then.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Of course, if the hon. gentleman insists, we will have to postpone the Bill, but I am very much pleased to see that he has gone to study French, and that henceforth the Bills will have to be printed in French as well as English. However, I have no doubt he will not insist on this now, but will allow the Bill to go through.

Mr. CHARLTON. I only speak in the interest of the hon. gentleman's French friends. It shows the difference between *meum* and *tuum*.

Mr. AMYOT. We generally protect ourselves.

Mr. BLAKE. Of course the Bill is to go through; but at the same time, I do not think sufficient reasons have been