

tors, when reciprocity in this is not permitted by the United States. If we are going to have an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, let us carry it through all these ramifications of business, and enact that, as one of the clauses of the Alien Labour Bill. A case came under our notice in the papers yesterday. In the city of Toronto, where there are unfortunately many mechanics out of employment, a store has been rebuilding, and we are told that a Buffalo architect has come over and brought his Buffalo workmen with him to carry out the alterations. Such a thing would not be permitted in the United States under the Alien Labour Law, and it should not be permitted here. If we are not to have reciprocity in labour, we should prevent American workmen from having privileges in Canada which they deny to our workmen in the United States. With regard to postponing the operation of this Act until it is proclaimed by the Governor in Council, I do not think that should be done. I think the time has arrived when we should put this law into force. They have had it in force in the United States for many years, and we are only enacting the same law which they are enforcing strictly and rigidly.

Mr. COWAN. Pardon me a moment. The first seven clauses of the Bill are the American law as it is on the statute-books of the United States. The remaining clauses are the objectionable clauses of the Lodge Bill or the Corliss amendment, which passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, but were vetoed by the President. These were put in so that, if they should be re-enacted in the United States, we would be able to bring them into force in Canada immediately without waiting for a session of Parliament. But the other portion of the Bill will go into force word for word with the American law.

Mr. WALLACE. A law similar to the 9th clause of this Bill was, I understand, enacted by an overwhelming majority of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

Mr. COWAN. In the Senate it only carried by three, with some twenty-seven members absent; but it was re-enacted by a very large majority over the President's veto in the House of Representatives.

Mr. WALLACE. And I have no doubt that the new President will not take the same view of it that President Cleveland did.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). We do not know that. We hope he will.

Mr. WALLACE. The hopes of hon. gentlemen opposite in that respect have been disappointed. All the hopes they entertain-

ed of securing some reciprocal legislation have been disappointed, and I do not suppose they have any stronger hopes in regard to this legislation. While we are enacting a law to-day, we should put all necessary provisions on the Statute-book. We have refrained all these years from doing so, and the Premier expressed his hope that after the Government had gone over the correspondence, they might find some means by which the necessity might not arise for the enactment of this legislation. I presume that the Government have looked into the question and have gone over the whole of the correspondence. I presume also that members and friends of the Government by their visits to Washington, have brought this very important and live question before the attention of the American authorities; and if they have done so, I presume that they are prepared to state to-day either that the negotiations have proved abortive or that the Americans have come to terms in some way. We have not heard that they are prepared to come to any terms in regard to this matter, and we are forced to the conclusion that the Government of the United States are not going to relax either the interpretation or the carrying out of the law, or the law itself. Therefore, it becomes the duty of us Canadians to consider our own case, to legislate in our own interests, and to protect the interests of our Canadian workmen, railway employees, mechanics, labourers and all classes of the community affected by this legislation, amended and perfected as we hope to have it in committee, so that we shall have an efficient law for the protection of Canadian workmen of whatever description they may be.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I have not thought it advisable to take any part in this debate before this moment, because there cannot be any doubt as to the position of the Government upon this Bill. In fact, I do not know that it is at all advisable to prolong the debate any longer; because, so far as I can interpret the sentiment of the House, there is a unanimous feeling at this moment, whatever may have been the opinions held by members in the past, that the persistence of the American Congress in keeping upon the Statute-book these very obnoxious clauses, leaves no alternative to the Canadian people but to apply the same law themselves. For my part, I can only repeat what I stated during last session, that I have come to that conclusion with very great reluctance. I am in no sympathy whatever with the principle of this legislation, and it is with extreme regret that I have come to the conclusion that we should follow so unfortunate an example. But the course adopted by our neighbours seems to me to leave no option to us but to apply to them the same measure of justice, or of