

Boards of Trade at Quebec and Montreal, as to whether it was desirable to have seamen and immigrant hospitals in common, or if it would be better to keep them separate. The discretionary power given by the Bill to the Minister of Marine would enable him to do in relation to this question what might after due consideration and advice be thought for the best.

Hon. Mr. Tessier said that in regard to the classification of vessels, he was not aware that there was any law to prevent it, but would not the Bill give power under Orders in Council to do this? If it did not, where was the necessity of introducing the subject in this measure, or until legislation had taken place? He (Mr. Tessier) was satisfied in relation to the other subjects named, for there were laws relating to them, and all the bill did was to take them from under the control of the Board of Works, or some other Department to place them under that of the Department of Fisheries. But when there was no law regulating a matter, such as the classification of vessels, would not the 5th clause give the Department that power? And would not an order in Council in that case be equivalent to a law? It would be useful to classify our ships, but he doubted whether it would be right to make it compulsory. If instead of Orders in Council it was said "according to the laws in force, or hereafter to be enacted," he thought it would be better.

Hon. Mr. Christie said he thought the Bill was liable to two objections. From the 2nd clause it imposed, or tended to impose, charges upon the people, for it established an office which would involve an expenditure of money, and he inclined to the opinion that for this reason such a Bill could not properly originate in this Chamber. Then secondly, if it could properly originate here, it should have been introduced by resolutions in Committee of the whole House, for although it did not expressly refer to trade, yet it did so incidentally. The rule in this point, as laid down in "May," was as follows: "That no Bill relating to religion, or trade, or the alteration of the laws concerning religion or trade, be brought into this House, until the proposition shall have first been considered in a Committee of the whole House, and agreed unto by the House." In Hansard, at page 724, it is reported as follows: "Mr. Spooner moved for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the business of marine store dealers, when Mr. Speaker said, that as it was a bill relating to trade it must be moved for in a Committee of the whole

House." Now he (Mr. Christie) held that as the Bill before the House imposed changes on the people, it should have originated in the House of Commons, and if it might properly originate in this House, it should, as relating to trade, and possibly involving new legislation, have first been submitted in the form of resolutions to a Committee of the whole.

Hon. Mr. Blair said he did not agree with the hon. member, as it simply gave power to take an office already existing.

Hon. Mr. McCully said he thought the measure might very properly originate in the Senate. It was a bill merely to organize, and there was nothing in it giving powers which were not already in existence somewhere in one or other of the Provinces. It simply gathered together a number of particulars, not of an incongruous nature, and placed there under the charge of one special officer, accountable to the Legislature. These subjects must fall under some supervision, and the question to be determined, as he understood it was, have they been properly collected together, or has there been some incongruity in the arrangement, something which does not properly fall within the scope of the duties of the Minister of Marine. If there was anything which did not legitimately come under the purview of that officer, then it might be eliminated, but after all there were details which would be better considered in Committee of the whole. If the Committee should feel disposed to limit the fifth clause, well, but at present the House was only properly concerned with the principle of the measure. He could well understand why the Government should assign duties of the nature proposed, to the Department in question, for a limited time, and he might suggest an amendment, limiting these powers until the end of the next part of the session. It was necessary to have a bill to organize the Department, and if hon. members would turn to the Act of Union they would find it dissipated the fears of the honourable member for Cumberland. So far as the Bill was concerned there was no interference whatever with the laws of the several Provinces. Clause 129 of the Union Act declared that all the laws and all the courts of justice in existence at the time of its enactment, would remain in all the Provinces the same as if the Union had not taken place. The bill in effect only created a head of a Department, and this was, he thought, the simple question to be considered, was it necessary to do this. The 29th subsection of the 91st clause, gave the necessary