

in Nova Scotia, who complained that, if we prohibited these Norwegian ships from carrying our coals, it would be a serious injury to the trade, as there were no Canadian vessels then built that were so well adapted to carry coal to Montreal.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is going to operate as a restriction upon Norwegian ships coming into Canadian ports, because I understand we are taking power to limit the coasting trade to any particular waters in Canada, whereas we cannot exercise that restriction now; but assuming we exercise the restriction, permitting only a limited number of Norwegian vessels to do business within limited coast, how will that operate upon the reciprocal trade which we at present enjoy with Norway? I understand that Canadian vessels do very little coasting trade with Norway; at the same time there is that element about it, whether reprisals will take place in the limitation of our rights to do coasting trade on the coast of Norway.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is very little coasting trade done by our vessels abroad.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I was under the impression that the coasting trade had already been granted to Norway by Canada.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It was in existence a great many years, but we passed an order in council in the earlier part of the present year in which we revoked all privileges heretofore granted in the coasting trade to all vessels, including a large number of countries. Then the remonstrance came that we were going to injure the coal trade of Nova Scotia unless some modification was made of that order; consequently this authority was taken.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The object is to give more elasticity to the law. The order in council will operate hard against the coal trade, while the object is to conserve our coasting trade to our own vessels to as large an extent as possible without materially injuring the coal trade.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The present proposition is not confined to Norwegian vessels, it says 'foreign vessels.'

It seems to me the difficulty has arisen in this way; in looking for an authority that they had not for repealing the former orders in council granting coasting privileges to foreign vessels, the government, in a moment of, whether it was weakness or pity, I do not know what it was, against other nations, assumed a power that they did not possess. There is no authority given in the section we are repealing for revoking any order in council which had been passed. Under the authority of that clause, the coasting trade is granted to Norway and to other countries, that extends the same privileges to British vessels. Then the government took upon themselves the responsibility of repealing those orders. In looking at the Shipping Act I cannot find that they had any authority for doing it. It has been found that in the operation the privilege that was given to Norway in particular, whose vessels engaged the coasting trade under the order in council passed, were thereby injuring the coal carrying trade, and now the government are recanting and repealing the clause which I have just read giving them the right to extend the coasting trade to foreign countries that have extended the same rights to Canada. Then they take further power to revoke or vary such order in council when they think proper. I think the provision is a very good one, only it seems to me that that clause restricts the privilege to certain waters in Canada, while under the first order in council it permitted them to go into any waters in Canada. Am I not right in that interpretation of it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It gives the power throughout Canada or to certain waters that may be indicated in the order in council.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The intention was to limit the vessels to the carrying of coal from points in Nova Scotia to Montreal.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It will be possible to make that provision by order in council. There has been no harm done by the order in council as passed. It was not to come into effect until a certain date, and another point is that although Norway is not named,