

### Friday, February 12, 1915.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

#### PRIVATE BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill No. 31, respecting The British Columbia Southern Railway Company.—Mr. Taylor.

Bill No. 32, to incorporate The Brulé Grand Prairie and Peace River Railway Company.—Mr. R. B. Bennett.

Bill No. 33, to confirm certain agreements made between The Canadian Northern Ontario Railway Company, The Georgian Bay and Seaboard Railway Company and The Campbellford, Lake Ontario and Western Railway Company.—Mr. Blain.

Bill No. 34, respecting The Manitoba and North Western Railway Company of Canada.—Mr. Cash.

Bill No. 35, respecting The Niagara-Welland Power Company.—Mr. Blain.

Bill No. 36, to incorporate Northern Pacific and British Columbia Railway Company.—Mr. Taylor.

Bill No. 37, respecting Pacific, Peace River and Athabasca Railway Company.—Mr. R. B. Bennett.

Bill No. 38, respecting The Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company.—Mr. Taylor.

#### POLLUTION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS.

Mr. GEORGE H. BRADBURY (Selkirk) moved the second reading of Bill No. 2 respecting the pollution of Navigable Waters. He said: This Bill is very similar to the one which I have had before the House during the last two sessions. We have taken a great deal of expert evidence, and the consensus of opinion of the experts of Canada is that a Bill of this kind is necessary to protect the streams and rivers of this country from pollution. That the House may understand thoroughly what I am asking for, I ask leave to read the Bill, which is a short one:

An Act respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. No person shall put or cause or permit to be put, or to flow or to be carried, any sewage, offal or refuse or other matter that is poisonous, noxious, decomposing, or any injurious refuse or waste, into any navigable water or into any other water that flows into any navigable water unless such matter is disposed of or treated in accordance with regulations made under the authority of this Act.

[Mr. Hazen.]

2. Every municipal corporation convicted of an offence against this Act shall, upon summary conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars and an additional sum of fifty dollars for each day during which the offence continues.

3. Every corporation, other than a municipal corporation, convicted of an offence against this Act shall, upon summary conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than two hundred dollars and an additional sum of twenty dollars for each day during which the offence continues.

4. Every person, other than a corporation, who is convicted of an offence against this Act shall, upon summary conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than fifty dollars and an additional sum of ten dollars for each day during which the offence continues, or to imprisonment not exceeding two months, or to both fine and imprisonment.

5. The Governor in Council shall have power to exempt any water or waters from the operation of this Act for such length of time as may be prescribed, and may from time to time extend, withdraw, or vary such exemption.

6. The Governor in Council may make such regulations and appoint such officers and employees as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. All regulations and orders made under this Act shall be published in the Canada Gazette.

One of the great objections urged against this Bill by different interests and by some of the lower province members in this House last year was that the legislation would work a hardship by its control of sewage placed in tidal waters. They contended that there was no necessity of interfering with cities along the sea-coast. For the purpose of expediting the Bill and of trying to make some headway with it, I have changed the wording of the fifth clause in such a way as to give the Government absolute control of the matter, power being given to it to exempt any waters or water from the operation of the Act and to extend such exemptions or withdrawal from time to time.

During the time this Bill was before the committee we took a great deal of evidence and examined, I think, every expert in Canada. During the first session of 1913 we examined Mr. James White of the Commission of Conservation and Dr. Hodgetts. Both these gentlemen, whose evidence was very full and complete, took the position that legislation of this kind is absolutely necessary if we are to prevent our rivers and lakes from being polluted as they have been during the last fifty years. We examined also Mr. Joseph Race, F.I.C., municipal bacteriologist of the city of Ottawa; Dr. W. T. Connel, Professor of Bacteriology and Hygiene at Queen's