

the royalty on the mined coal. But the fact of the royalty being ten cents per ton deterred the mining of coal upon that land because a great deal of land had passed from the hands of the Crown in the early days without any condition of royalty, and as there was plenty of such land to furnish an opportunity for coal operators the ten cents per ton royalty was a bar to development. The \$10 per acre price afforded an opportunity for speculation and the ten cents per ton royalty was a bar to development. In 1907 the regulations were changed so that coal lands would not be sold, so that only the right to the coal could be acquired and that under lease at a rental per year. At the same time the royalty on coal to be mined was reduced from ten cents to five cents a ton upon such leased land, the result of which was that the man who wanted to acquire coal land for actual development found his opportunity improved by the change in the regulations because he acquired the right to operate by the payment of a yearly rental and on his operation he paid only half as much royalty as in the former case.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will allow me to interrupt him for a moment, only for the sake of getting clearly at this legislation—the minister will see that this is just the same as if he brought down fifteen Bills, and put them before the House with the idea that the House would legislate upon them. If they were Bills they would be on file and every member would have the Bills and could study their provisions and go along with the minister in his explanations. These orders in council have been brought down, they have been put on the table of the House, but the clerk has put them in his capacious pocket and spirited them away, and from that hour up to this not a single member of parliament has seen one of them unless he has been curious or wise enough to get at them and look into them. Under these circumstances it seems to me that it is absolute blindness for us to pass fifteen Bills really simply from the minister's explanations, which are plain enough, but, although we listened to the explanations we cannot form a judgment upon them because they are diffuse, and there are too many of them. In some way or other, if legislation like this is to take place, orders in council ought to be treated the same as Bills, printed and put before the members so that we could have them the same as Bills. This just occurs to me; it is all a blind piece of work to me; I try to follow it as nearly as I can, and I think the same would be true with regard to most members of the House. It is important legislation. Does the minister not know any way by which he could suggest a more intelligent consideration of the matter than this? I suppose these orders in

council are fairly voluminous, are they, or are they rather short?

Mr. OLIVER. They are not very long.

Mr. FOSTER. Then I will suggest to the minister that it would make things far better if he would print a stated number of them so that each member of the House would have his copy the same as he would have a Bill and then in a little time take them up. Does the minister not think that would be a better way?

Mr. OLIVER. There is no objection, I know of, to following the hon. gentleman's suggestion, but I may say that I am merely following the terms of the statute and the precedent of other years.

Mr. FOSTER. If we had not so many of them thrown at us at once it would not be so bad.

Mr. OLIVER. We have every desire that every member should have the fullest information. These regulations have been printed for the information of every person interested, and I assumed there was sufficient information in the hands of members to enable them to form their judgment.

Mr. FOSTER. Probably the minister has a sufficient number printed now.

Mr. OLIVER. Very likely. I do not know whether there would be enough of the order in council in its original form, but I think we would have sufficient copies of the information which was prepared for general use.

Progress reported.

CLOTHING OF DISCHARGED CONVICTS

Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH. Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to say a word with reference to a matter that was brought to the attention of the House yesterday by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards). It was stated that some articles had appeared in local newspapers complaining of the hardship a prisoner had suffered in being discharged from the penitentiary at Kingston at a time when the thermometer was below zero, with insufficient clothing. On seeing the article in the newspaper, I instructed a report on the subject to be asked at once from the warden of the penitentiary. That report has reached me this morning, and I think the substance of it ought to be made public in justice to the warden. This particular prisoner was released under direction of His Excellency as an exercise of clemency a few months before the expiration of his sentence by effluxion of time. He was a man liable to be deported to the United States, a citizen of the United States. All necessary inquiries and arrangements for his deportation as soon as