

lines laid down. But I have risen for the purpose of emphasizing what has been said by the mover of the Bill in reference to the effect produced on the lumbering interests of this country. Along the north shore of the Georgian Bay the Canadian lumbering interest, as regards the employment of Canadian lumbermen, has been greatly affected in the past five or ten years, owing to what, in my view, and the view of a large number of people in the province of Ontario, has been the policy of the local government and of the Dominion Government also, in permitting the exportation of logs from Canada to the United States, and which has resulted in carrying in its wake the introduction into Canada of a large amount of American labour. While I do not maintain that the employment of men has been exclusively from the American side, still the better positions in the lumbering camps have been given to men coming from the United States, and as a result those wishing to work in the woods on this side have been debarred from participating in the best positions that were in the gift of those employing labour. But not only in the matter of taking logs from the woods, but also in the manufacture of timber upon the shores of the Georgian Bay, a large number of Americans have built mills there, and it is within my own knowledge, and must be within the knowledge of every person who has been about those mills, that a large number of the men employed in such concerns are Americans coming into this country and working the best part of the season, and then returning to their homes. As I understand the law of the United States in this regard, Canadians are debarred from going to the other side and there seeking permanent employment without first having taken the oath of allegiance. Now, if this is correct, as I think it is in many states, it is a case of hardship that our men going over there should be forced to foreswear their allegiance to this country, while on the other hand Americans are permitted to come here and participate in the labour afforded in this country, and which should be given to Canadians if at all possible. As to the proposition made by the First Minister that the Bill should not be proceeded with now, but that it should stand until the next session, I would rather favour the proposal that the Bill should go to a special committee to be named by the House, and the gentlemen composing it should fortify themselves with facts and figures, so that when the House next meets we would be in possession of a great deal of information which cannot be acquired as speedily next January as in the delay that will intervene between this session and the ensuing session. I trust, therefore, that the Bill will go to a special committee, and that the gentlemen composing it will feel it incumbent upon themselves to acquire all the information they can, and place it before the House at the next session.

Mr. BENNETT.

Mr. HENDERSON. In my opinion the time has come when some action must be taken along the lines laid down in the Bill of the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor). I think in self-defence we are compelled to do so. In the county which I have the honour to represent, I know that the feeling along that line is growing very strong indeed. Not only are the Americans endeavouring to regulate labour and to prevent Canadians from going to their side to work, but they are interfering in another matter which has come to my notice recently, and which seems to be fully as serious. As the First Minister intends to look into this matter, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that during the recent election an attempt was made to interfere materially with the political affairs of this country. There are many people owning property here, but who are living at the present time in the United States and working there; and it was no unusual thing in the section of the country in which I live, for men who had the franchise in my county and were living in the state of New York, to receive letters signed by the immigration agent in the state of New York, telling them that in the event of their coming to this country to vote at the general election, they would be prohibited from returning. I do not say that this was done at the instance of the Liberal party, or that the influence of Mr. De Barry was secured in this matter by the Liberal party; but it did not come to my notice that these letters were sent to any but Conservatives. I will read a letter received by a constituent of mine who formerly resided in the village of Acton, who is an owner of property there, but who at the present time is living in Buffalo, I believe going to school there. He was notified by Mr. De Barry in the words following:—

Buffalo, June 20th, 1896.

My dear sir :

I have received a list of names of parties who work in this State and are about going to Canada to vote in the coming Dominion elections; your name appears on the list.

Now I would advise you to remain where you are as steps will be taken to prohibit you returning to New York State, should you go to Canada and cast your vote at this election.

Yours very sincerely,

J. DeBARRY.

Now this was not the only elector that was interfered with on that occasion. I am aware of others who intended to come to the county of Halton to vote, who had a perfect right to come, and who were prevented from coming entirely by the receipt of this letter, thinking that if they did come, the threat here contained would be carried out, and that they would be deprived of their positions on returning again to the city of Buffalo. I think this is a matter of so much importance that in any negotiations this Government may have with the United