

understand that this is the usual way of handling the matter. When this money was advanced under the Act of 1914, the Harbour Commissioners thought they would have fully expended the money by the end of 1917, but that not being so, it was necessary to amend the Act as I have just stated.

Resolution reported, read the first and second time and agreed to.

Mr. BALLANTYNE thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 15, to amend the Montreal Harbour Advances Act, 1914.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will the Minister be in a position to state, at the next sitting of the House when this Bill is brought up, the programme of work on the Montreal Harbour?

Mr. BALLANTYNE: Do I understand the hon. member to mean the programme of work we contemplate carrying on at Montreal during the coming year?

Mr. LEMIEUX: Yes.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: I shall be glad to give that information at the next sitting.

CUSTOMS ACT AMENDMENT.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CONTROL OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

On the motion of Sir Robert Borden, the House went into Committee to consider the following resolution. Mr. Boivin in the Chair:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide that the Governor in Council may, until the expiration of a period of three years after the termination of the present war, make regulations prohibiting the importation or exportation of goods of any class, description or origin, or produced or manufactured in whole or in part in any country or place specified in the regulation, either generally or from or to any country or place named in the regulation, subject to such exceptions (if any) as may be specified in the regulation, and to any licenses the grant of which may be authorized by the regulation.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am moving this resolution in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) who cannot be here this evening. It is merely for the purpose of founding thereon a Bill which is in precisely the same terms. If the hon. gentlemen will be good enough to permit the resolution to be passed pro forma, I shall not attempt any explanation of it in the absence of the minister who will give a full explanation of it upon the second reading.

An hon. MEMBER: Is the Bill printed?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I have a printed copy in my hand. Bills are not printed and distributed until they are introduced. This Bill has not been introduced. If the resolution passes, I shall introduce it immediately, and then it will be printed and distributed.

Mr. SINCLAIR: It seems to me to be a very large order for the Government to ask Parliament to give them this power until three years after the termination of the war. There may, of course, be some good reason for it. I can quite understand that during the war it may be necessary for the Government to have this power as to imports and exports, but why we should go so far as to give control of our import and export trade into the hands of the Government independently of Parliament for a period of three years after the war is over, it is difficult to understand. I trust some good reason will be forthcoming with regard to this proposal.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I entirely agree that there should be a full explanation of the grounds upon which the Bill is founded, and my hon. friend may rest assured that the Minister of Trade and Commerce will give his reasons very fully when he moves the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is it in virtue of this principle that the War Trade Board has been created?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No, it has no connection whatever with the constitution of the War Trade Board.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What makes me suggest that there should be a full explanation of the proposed resolution and the creation of the War Trade Board is that I find that an Order in Council was passed about eight or ten days ago prohibiting the export of enumerated articles. I am interested in one—mechanical pulp, sulphite pulp. I went before the War Trade Board the other day in order to obtain a license for a company. On reading this resolution, I thought it was the same principle.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It may be the same principle in one sense, but the Bill has no connection with the establishment of the War Trade Board.

Mr. ELKIN: Might I ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, by what means he proposes to carry out the provisions em-