

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Have any representations been made to the department as to the necessity for this inspection?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes. For several years representations have been made to the department asking us to provide for the inspection of water meters. However, there has not been so much necessity for the inspection of water meters, as perhaps for the inspection of gas meters and electric meters, because, in most cases water is supplied by municipalities and at a flat rate.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What expenditure will it involve?

Mr. BRODEUR. I intend to ask in the supplementary estimates for a vote of \$1,000 for this service; and we expect that the fees collected will be more than sufficient to meet this small expense.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will it involve the appointment of additional officials, or will those in the department be sufficient?

Mr. BRODEUR. The intention is, as the Bill will provide, that the inspection shall be made by the officers of the Inland Revenue Department.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The present officers?

Mr. BRODEUR. The present officers.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Will this interfere with a person making a flat rate for supply of water?

Mr. BRODEUR. No. It will only provide that where meters are used, those meters must be inspected.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Has it to do with anything except the quantity of the water? Has it anything to do with the quality?

Mr. BRODEUR. No, simply the quantity.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Because, the water supplied in our town is fit only for laundry purposes. I understand that it will still be optional with people to buy their water at a flat rate?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes. This is simply to provide for the inspection of the meter where payment is made according to the amount supplied as shown by meter.

Mr. LENNOX. The minister says that the charge will be from 75 cents to \$6. Could he explain that more definitely? I suppose the higher charge will be in the case of a factory or large establishment?

Mr. BRODEUR. Generally large establishments make contracts for supply of water at a fixed rate for a certain time. In some municipalities the water is supplied through meters, and this is to provide that the meters shall be inspected; but it will not interfere with those who desire to make contracts for water supply otherwise than by meter.

Mr. BRODEUR.

Mr. LENNOX. Who will pay the fee—the person supplying the water, or the purchaser?

Mr. BRODEUR. When a meter is manufactured, it will have to be inspected before it is used. Therefore the fee will have to be paid by the manufacturer.

Mr. LENNOX. That is, according to the theory of hon. gentlemen opposite it would be paid ultimately by the consumer. But what I am trying to get at is in what cases the charge will be 75 cents, and in what cases it will be \$6. I can understand that it would depend upon the capacity of the meter, but that does not indicate very clearly how this expense is to bear upon the public. Whether it is in the form of an expenditure through the department or in the form of fees paid for this service, the burden will rest upon the public; and we ought to know how that tax will be borne. For instance, what will the expense be in the case of the ordinary householder?

Mr. BRODEUR. About 75 cents every five years. So my hon. friend (Mr. Lennox) will see that it is not a very heavy tax. And this inspection is for the protection of the public.

Mr. BLAIN. Are the meters to be inspected once every five years?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes, as in the case of gas and electric meters.

Mr. TAYLOR. They will be inspected oftener, I suppose, if the consumer thinks the meter is not running fairly and wants it inspected again?

Mr. BRODEUR. The Bill will provide for that. The consumer can have his meter inspected by the inspector of the district in which he resides.

Resolution reported, read the second time and agreed to.

Mr. BRODEUR moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 188) respecting the inspection of water meters.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

INLAND REVENUE ACT AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 176) to amend the Inland Revenue Act—Mr. Brodeur—read the second time and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1,

Mr. BRODEUR. This is a mere verbal change in the old Act and it is to make legal a practice in the department about which there was a little doubt in the law.

On section 2,

Mr. BRODEUR. Under the existing law licensees of the department can furnish bonds by guarantee companies or by private