

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Would my hon. friend be kind enough to repeat the answer he has just given? Do I understand the declination of Mr. Tarte was made to the the government?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No. I stated that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries naturally consulted a number of leading gentlemen in Montreal as to the most judicious selection for the Board of Harbour Commissioners. Mr. Tarte was among the number consulted, and in the course of the conversation Mr. Tarte intimated to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that as far as he was concerned he would not accept the position.

NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING POSTPONED.

The Order of the Day being called :

Second reading (Bill A) An Act to amend the Naturalization Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—As this Bill has not been printed and distributed among the members, I move that the Order of the Day be discharged and that it be placed on the Orders of the Day for Tuesday next.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Before this matter comes up for second reading, would my hon. friend be good enough to say what are the conditions which have given rise to this proposed legislation, so as to permit members to inform themselves in the matter? Those conditions are not apparent on the face of the Bill and it is very desirable that we should know what they are.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The suggestion comes from local men in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and I shall endeavour to get any information I can. I have none at present other than the intimation that it was felt that this was rather important inasmuch as there were persons there who were willing to become British subjects, but who could not do so until they had remained three years in the Northwest. A similar law has been passed in New Zealand, allowing parties to avail themselves of their residence in another British colony when applying for naturalization. The Bill is to permit the time spent in one British colony

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

to be counted when applying for naturalization in another British colony.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I should like to know at the second reading whether there has been any judicial authority upon the present Act being insufficient to meet the conditions provided; also whether the matter has been submitted to the Department of Justice. It seems to me a very great deal of legislation is being passed by the government with reference to the naturalization of aliens which is extremely undesirable, in my judgment at any rate.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This was sent to me by the Department of Justice. I think I have the report here.

The motion was agreed to.

REVISED STATUTES OF 1906 BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (B) An Act respecting the Revised Statutes 1906 and to provide for the French version thereof. He said: This Act has been distributed. I think hon. gentlemen have it on their desks. As I explained on the introduction of the Bill a large part of it is a reprint of the Act passed in 1903. There was a clause omitted, and that was in reference to the French version. The Department of Justice thought the French version must be referred to, and that the laws as printed in French by the King's Printer and translated by the proper authority should be confirmed. I presume one of the reasons for calling attention to that was the fact that discrepancies had been discovered between the French and English versions of the statutes of 1886. A case was brought to the notice of the Department of Justice recently in which the penalty for the commission of a certain offence was not the same in the two versions. It so happened that in the province of Quebec the French judge, being more familiar with French than English, preferred to take the French edition, and the result was that the man got off with considerable less penalty than would have been inflicted if the English version had been used. For that reason it is desirable that there should be a careful translation by the proper authority.