

do not see why it should be made an exception in this respect at all.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The amendment is withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—It is not intended simply to make the amendment apply to Montreal. If it were adopted, it would be more beneficial and advantageous to other ports than Montreal, because Montreal is rich enough to pay for such services; but suppose a riot takes place in a port which is attached to the municipality, take Maisonneuve as an example; suppose a riot takes place in the port of Maisonneuve, the municipality is small, and the whole of its revenue would be absorbed by the expenses of the militia for one or two weeks. I think it is a mistake to say that this amendment is especially in favour of Montreal. A riot may be caused by labourers coming from all parts of the world, Italians, Spaniards, Germans and all nationalities—people engaged in the works under the control of the government. Well, is it fair and just that the expenses in such a case—I do not speak of Montreal but I speak of any port in Canada—that the expenses in such a case should be borne by the municipality?

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Are there not provincial police in Montreal?

Hon. Mr. DAVID—No.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I should like to ask a question. It is a very serious matter. Who has charge of the troops on an occasion of this kind? Supposing that any catastrophe should occur,—fortunately there has not been any so far, but it may occur at any time—is the military authority to guide and direct the troops altogether, and in the event of firing on a mob or using deadly weapons, is the officer to take the full responsibility? Has the mayor or the civic authority the power of preventing a useless slaughter of people? Is there any provision made for it or not?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The senior judicial authority calling out the troops must be present and read the Riot Act, and give the people fair warning before any attempt is made to fire on them.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Who reads the Act?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The mayor or judicial authority who signs the requisition.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—Not only that, but the senior officer in charge must get the order in writing, before he directs the troops to fire.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Every precaution is taken.

The clause was adopted.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—from the committee, reported that they had made some progress in the committee, and asked leave to sit again.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (172) An Act to amend the Customs Tariff, 1897.—(Hon. Mr. Scott).

The Senate adjourned till three p.m.

Second Sitting.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Routine proceedings.

POST OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Order of the Day being called:

Third reading Bill (153) An Act to amend the Post Office Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said: The hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Ferguson) suggested that the powers which were intended to be conferred on the superintendent were really struck out by this Bill. I submitted his view to the Deputy Postmaster General, and stated that I in some degree concurred in the opinion of the hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Ferguson), and therefore he consented to an amendment, restoring the latter part of clause 12 of the Postal Act. The latter part of the clause contains the authority for the chief post office inspector to make his inquiries, and striking that out rather took away the power and jurisdiction of the inspector. Under the present Bill the chief superintendent is substituted for the post office inspector, and the amendment I propose is to strike out the first nine lines of section 12 instead of the whole section, and