

the minister in what position the matter is. Has that legislation been proceeded with or can he give to the House any information as to the likelihood of the passage of such legislation at an early date?

Mr. DOHERTY: Since the matter came up before, there has been this additional proceeding. At that time I stated that we had submitted to the Home authorities some suggestion as to modifications with a view to carrying out the principle that had been agreed upon between us. Since then we have received from the Home Government their Bill recast so as to meet the suggestion that we made, with a request that we inform them whether it is satisfactory. I may say that in the new Bill there is a distinct part dealing with the subject of naturalization. The Bill deals also with the general subject of British nationality. That part of the Bill is to come into force in the dominions if adopted by the legislatures of those dominions, and is to remain in force in those dominions only so long as the adopted legislation may not be repealed by the legislatures of those dominions. The Home authorities sent the Draft Bill to us with the request that we should make known to them whether that particular part requiring adoption by the dominions would be acceptable. We have sent an answer declaring our readiness to accept that particular part of the Bill.

Mr. MACDONALD: Does the minister intend to introduce this session the legislation to which he refers, and will he be good enough to bring down copies of the proposed Bill and also such correspondence as there may be on the subject?

Mr. DOHERTY: With regard to the introducing of legislation into this House, of course, that cannot properly be done until the Bill proposed by the Home authorities has been passed and has become law there. We cannot adopt the law before they have passed it. I understand that it is the intention of the Government of the United Kingdom to introduce the Bill at the present session of Parliament and to pass it. As soon as that is done, we shall be prepared to take the necessary steps. With regard to the request that I should bring down the further documents, I shall be glad to do so.

Mr. LEMIEUX: May I ask the Minister of Justice if he has received the Bill introduced some weeks ago by Lord Haldane concerning the contemplated changes in the Privy Council, and when we may expect a statement to be made by the Minister of Justice on the subject?

Mr. DOHERTY: Yes, we have received the Bill, together with a copy of the re-

marks by the Lord Chancellor in introducing it. I may say that the Bill does nothing more than provide for the appointment of additional members, so far as we are concerned, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Under the law as it stands at present the number of judges or retired judges in the dominions who are eligible to become members of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is limited to five. The Act provides that the limitation shall be seven. I understand that the reason why it is considered desirable to increase the number who may form part of the committee is that under the present distribution all the dominions are not provided for, that there are not enough to enable representatives of all to be called in view of the fact that one,—Australia, I think,—has three of the five. In particular I understand the object of the Lord Chancellor was to make it possible to have a representative of New Zealand.

NAVAL FORCES OF THE EMPIRE.

Consideration in Committee of Bill No. 21, to authorize measures for increasing the effective Naval Forces of the Empire—Mr. Borden—resumed from May 7. (Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

On section 4:

The said ships when constructed and equipped shall be placed by the Governor in Council at the disposal of His Majesty for the common defence of the Empire.

Mr. BOIVIN: Before section 4 is carried, I would ask if sections 2 and 3 have been passed. I understand the discussion on these has been postponed. Could you tell us now, Mr. Chairman, or could the Prime Minister tell us, when the discussion on sections 2 and 3 will be resumed?

Mr. BORDEN: As soon as we get 4 and 5, and perhaps earlier—certainly tomorrow.

Mr. BOIVIN: It appears to me absolutely ridiculous for this Parliament to discuss sections 4 and 5 of the Bill before we know what form sections 2 and 3 will take. I quite realize that the right hon. Prime Minister believes that his Bill is so perfect that it cannot possibly be amended. I should respect his opinion, even if I cannot share it. I will do him the justice to say, however, that I believe that if an intelligent amendment to section 2 or section 3 were moved by any hon. member of this House, be he on this side or on the other, and when I say a reasonable amendment, I mean one which in the opinion of the Prime Minister himself would render his Bill better, for everyone knows that perfection does not exist in this world—he would be willing to accept

Mr. MACDONALD