

that is made by the owners of steamships coming from the other side of the Atlantic is, that, as they are compelled to use pilots, and as they have to pay for them, they ought to be allowed to make a free choice of pilots. The provisions of the Bill ought to be extended to steamships coming from the other side.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask some explanation in regard to the last paragraph of that section. It seems to me that an exception is made in favour of the port of Halifax, the Sydney pilotage district, Miramichi and Pictou. In these pilotage districts, pilotage dues may be charged or vessels may be exempt wholly or partially from the payment of dues. What is the reason for that distinction?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I think it would perhaps be wiser for me to ask the hon. member for Victoria, N.B. (Mr. Costigan) to enlighten me as to the intention because this is the law as I found it on the statute-book for many years, and I have simply re-enacted it.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN. I do not think I could give the explanation, because, in my ignorance, not being a lawyer, I read what I saw before me, and I read that a certain section had been repealed and that the following had been substituted therefor. I may be too dense to comprehend this if there is no change and the same law is substituted.

Mr. COCHRANE. I do not think the hon. Minister of Justice gave a very good reason for the Bill he has introduced. If he does not understand the Bill he introduces or the statute that he proposes to amend, then, he ought to submit a Bill that he does understand so that we can understand the information he gives us.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I have introduced a Bill to amend the Pilotage Act. There are certain provisions amending the law in existence and there are certain other provisions which are merely re-enacting the existing law. In reference to the questions of my hon. friend I merely referred him to the explanation of those who introduced and passed the law. At any rate, I took the old law as it was and made changes to the extent I thought necessary.

Mr. CLARKE. Does this Bill apply to British ships?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. To all ships.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN. I asked for information as to why this last paragraph gave exceptional powers to these districts named. The hon. minister explains that he is making certain changes in the law and re-enacting certain portions of the old law. Consistent with the first question I asked, if it be necessary to change certain

portions, what are the different conditions that induced him to change those portions and leave the others unchanged?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I have left that portion unchanged which has been in operation for many years, and I assume, that, it having been in operation for many years and no complaint having been made, it is giving satisfaction.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I have not yet got from the hon. Minister of Justice the reason why this Act should apply to vessels coming from the maritime provinces and from the American coast and not to trans-Atlantic liners.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I do not apply it to trans-Atlantic liners at all.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I know. Why do you not?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Because this clause is practically to provide for the coasting trade as the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) suggests. But those who understand the meaning of the pilotage laws know that the trans-Atlantic liners are included in the pilotage system and that it is extremely desirable that the whole system should be changed, and I am not quite sure that it is very far from the mind of the minister to do that. I think he is considering the question, because, as I understand it now, compulsory pilotage does not exist. What does exist is the compulsory payment of pilotage dues and compulsory payment of pilotage dues is applicable to trans-Atlantic steamers. As a matter of practice an owner will take a pilot on board his ship but if he did not do so he would be obliged to pay pilotage dues notwithstanding that fact. This is a condition of things that deserves consideration but it is a different question from that which is dealt with by this Bill.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I know the Bill does not apply to that question, but the complaint is made by the owners of trans-Atlantic steamers that they have not the option of employing the pilot they choose when they come in. Under the Bill you need not employ a pilot or you may employ the pilot you choose. Why not give the same privilege to trans-Atlantic steamers?

Bill reported.

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Militia—Pay and allowances, \$392,100.

Hon. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). Mr. Chairman, when the militia estimates were up a few days ago their passage was objected to because the report of the Major-General and the other reports were not in the hands of hon. members. They came down very shortly afterwards, and before we take up these estimates, I pro-