

disadvantages might be the Government could not undertake to remove them. Another request made was for a minimum salary, and for a certain scale of allowances. To this the Government's answer was that those matters would be dealt with in the re-classification when it came down. On the whole, so far as the Government, acting in the public interests could meet made with the provincial governments important matters will be dealt with by the re-classification, and on some questions the Government felt that it could not meet the views presented to it.

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATER- POWERS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Maison-neuve): I desire to ask the Minister of Railways if the report is true that the Government intends to develop some water-powers on the river St. Lawrence, and if so, whether any arrangements have been made with the provincial governments interested with regard to the proprietary rights to the bed of the river? Linked with this question I desire to ask another which concerns the permission which an American company obtained from the International Waterways Commission to dam the river St. Lawrence in order to construct works for the production of aluminium for air ships, it being clearly understood that that permission would be withdrawn immediately the war was over. What steps are being taken to carry out the understanding in question?

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Railways): In regard to the hon. gentleman's first question, he, of course, understands that any work undertaken by the Government in connection with the development of water-powers on the St. Lawrence could not be proceeded with until Parliament gave the necessary authority. The matter is one which has been under discussion in this House for a number of years. As I explained the other evening, the question was brought to the attention of the Department of Railways with a view to having construction work proceed on the St. Lawrence river, and the matter was also discussed in Congress at Washington during the last session. Further than that nothing has been done. With reference to the hon. gentleman's second question relating to the dam that was placed across the Long Sault rapids in order to develop power during the war, I do not understand

[Mr. Rowell.]

that the decision of the International Waterways Commission was as the hon. gentleman states. If my memory serves me right, the company in question were empowered by the Waterways Commission to build this dam which was to continue, not only during the war, but, I think, for five years afterwards.

VACANT COUNTY COURT JUDGESHIPS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): May I be permitted to ask the Acting Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, if the Government have reached any decision relating to the appointment of a county court judge for District No. 6 in Nova Scotia; and, if not, when it is likely to be dealt with?

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Acting Minister of Justice): There are several vacant county court judgeships inclusive of the one referred to by the hon. member (Mr. J. H. Sinclair), but this Government having suggested to the various Provincial Governments that they should take into consideration the reduction of the county court judiciary in each province by amalgamation or otherwise, I have not thought well to recommend to Council the filling of the present vacancies.

THE CLOSURE.

INTERPRETATION OF RULE 17B

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I would like to ask the Acting Minister of Justice what is the understanding on Rule 17B as to the time allowed hon. members when we get into Committee, whether they can speak once on each clause, or once on the whole Bill? There seems to be a conflict of opinion in the press. Before we get into any trouble I would like to have a definite opinion from the Acting Minister of Justice.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: My opinion is this: That after the motion of which notice has been given, is put, should it be carried, there will be a clause taken up, presumably the first clause in the notice. Each hon. member may speak twenty minutes on that clause, but if it should carry the debate up to two o'clock, then all the clauses covered by the notice and the preamble and title must be decided by the House. If, however, the debate should conclude earlier than that hour on the first clause, the next clause would be taken up, which would revive the right of any hon. member who had spoken thereon.