

to whom the hon. member from Iberville calls attention may have been an estimable person who was well fitted for the office. I have nothing to say on that subject, for the simple reason that I don't know anything about him. I have known my hon. friend for many years, and I accept his word unhesitatingly. I do not propose to discuss the other questions which have been brought up, nor shall I, even at this late date, defend the officer whom I know very well, who made the investigation in reference to the Welland Canal. I think I could give reasons to justify the course that the late government pursued which might not satisfy even my hon. friend who brought this motion before the House. I do not pretend to say that I could justify the conduct of the government to the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman who made the complaint against Mr. Ellis, because that would be a matter of utter impossibility.

Hon. Mr. PRIMROSE—I suppose the House is utterly tired of this discussion. I had intended to enter into it at considerable length, but at this late date I shall refrain from doing so. I feel, however, that I should be recreant to my sense of duty if I did not say a few words on the subject, inasmuch as the county from which I come, has been made the theatre for the exercise of this power of dismissal to an extent that would surprise hon. gentlemen. There was very little time lost after the 23rd June last, and about as flagrant an example as can be found of the utter injustice of placing in the hands of a defeated candidate the power of saying who shall be dismissed as being an offensive partizan has been given in my county since that date. Without entering into the subject of the debate as fully as I had intended to do, I wish briefly to put on record my opinion that a course of action such as this, will open wide a fountain, the pestiferous outflow from which will overspread the whole plane of our political life in this country, and whose noisome exhalations will, with their malarial breath, kill outright every plant of truthfulness, honesty and justice within the area of its baneful influence. From these certain results of this most wretched policy may God save Canada.

Hon. Mr. BECHARD—I wish to add a few words of explanation with regard to the case I have mentioned. The leader of

the opposition observed that the inspector of weights and measures in my district was a man who had not performed his duty. Whether the work he performed before he received the apparatus and standards was considered by the government as being worth anything or not, I cannot say: the point that I wanted to make was that he was an efficient officer and well disposed to work and do his duty. He was an honest and honourable man, and why was he dismissed? Is it because he had not received the instruments earlier? It was not his fault. If he had received the apparatus I suppose the work performed after he got them would be considered by the government as being worth something. The point I want to make is that he was dismissed, although he was a well qualified official. Dismissed why? I cannot tell why. All I know is that he was a staunch Liberal and that a staunch Conservative has been put in his place.

UNFINISHED BILLS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I should like to know what course will be pursued in dealing with bills which may not pass their third reading before the prorogation of parliament? Can those bills be suspended until next session to be then taken up at the stage which they had reached this session and carried through?

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—That sort of thing would require the assent of both Houses. The subject was brought up in the other House and that House decided not to do it; therefore, we cannot do it. Besides that, I am told that a statute would be necessary, even though the consent of both Houses were obtained, before it could be done.

At 6 o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Before saying anything about the subject of dismissals, a subject that has been, in one shape or another, before the House for some time now, I cannot help repeating my expression of regret that the practice of this House has been abused, with respect to questions.