

the whole House—to make it as perfect a measure as possible.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The Bill has certainly been treated as one of great importance. The leader of the Opposition (Mr. Foster) characterized it, in the beginning of his speech, as a measure of immense importance, but subsequently he spoke of it as a trifling Bill, not worthy of our present attention.

Mr. FOSTER. That is by way of comparison.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The leader of the Opposition can change his ground pretty quickly. However, I propose not to ask the Committee to dwell any longer upon the measure. I have no doubt that, after the thorough sifting the Bill has had, hon. gentlemen opposite will be better prepared to understand it when their attention is invited to it again on Monday. Under these circumstances, I shall ask that hon. members be relieved from further wrestling with the measure to-night.

I trust that after a day's rest they will come back sufficiently strong and vigorous as to be able again to devote themselves to this important measure, and bring again their energetic minds to bear upon it that has been so conspicuously displayed to-night. Some people, I won't say I am one, of course might think that the Opposition had not covered themselves with glory by such proceedings. They, of course, are judges of that; in the meantime, I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Committee rose and reported progress.

THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 136) to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act.—(Mr. Mulock.)

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.58 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 28th June, 1897.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Eleven o'clock, a.m.

PRAYERS.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

Mr. GILLIES. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) what decision his department has come to with reference to the extension of the lobster season in the eastern part of Nova

Mr. CLANCY.

Scotia. I have received several letters from individuals interested in that industry, stating that dire distress might result if the season is not extended, because this season has been a most inclement one for the prosecution of the industry and generally unfavourable to the fishermen.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I am glad the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gillies) has mentioned this matter. I have received communications from all parts of the coast stating that the season has been an unfortunate one, that storms have broken the lobster traps, and all that kind of thing. In conjunction with officers of the department I have given this matter a great deal of consideration. I would like to see my way clear in the general interest to extend the time. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and I are discussing these telegrams as received from hour to hour. I can only repeat what I stated on a previous occasion, that my own inclination is strongly against any extension of the time, though I know it will subject me to a storm of protest, if not abuse, from many parties. Still, I think that the general interest of the industry will be best served—

Mr. GILLIES. The hon. Minister must not forget that this has been an exceptional year.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I never saw a year that was not an exceptional year for some reason. We must put our foot down some time or other, and unless my opinion is altered by the telegrams received to-day, as to the effect of these storms, I have determined to take the responsibility of adhering to the law.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) While I know that there is strong pressure being brought to bear upon the hon. Minister of Marine in regard to this matter, and while I know that the refusal to extend the season may affect many people concerned in this industry, still I think it is of much more importance for this country as a whole, that the Minister of Fisheries should carry out his present intentions with a strong hand, in order to prevent the industry being completely destroyed.

SUPPLY—CONCURRENCE.

The House proceeded to consider resolutions adopted in Committee of Supply.

Public Works—Chargeable to collection of Revenue..... \$171,700

Mr. SPROULE. I respectfully submit that we are going through these items in a way that was never before done, so far as my remembrance goes. It makes it utterly impossible to call attention to any of the items that we left over for further explanation on concurrence. The amounts only are mentioned and not the objects for which they are to be spent. We are going so fast