

*Patents of Invention*

ing, if something is taken up for a few moments, to send for the hon. member for Vancouver Centre.

Motion stands.

## PATENTS OF INVENTION

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the second reading of Bill No. 20, to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to Patents of Invention.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I would ask the minister to explain.

Mr. ROBB: This act has not been revised since 1903, about twenty years ago. A bill was introduced in 1920; but at that time owing to other business and the lateness of the session, the bill was not pressed. The bill was again introduced in 1921, and it reached its second reading. I understand the bill had at that time been submitted by the government of the day to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and different public bodies interested, and that it had met with their approval; but when it had reached its second reading, there was some objection from some individual manufacturers, and the bill was not pressed. Canada now desires to enter the Berné Convention, so that we in Canada shall be on the same basis with all the world. Incidentally I might say that Canada's cost for maintenance of the International Convention at Berne will run about \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year, and that the revenue from the Patents branch is about \$250,000 a year. The experience of the officers in the administration of that department has convinced them that certain amendments to this act are very desirable in the interests of the Canadian public generally. The more important provisions in the bill relate to the manufacture and importation of patent inventions, and they will be found in clauses 40 and 41. It is thought that the proposed improvement to the act will enable Canada to join the International Berne Convention and will improve the position generally of Canadian citizens in trade throughout the world. There are some minor provisions so as to transfer to the Patent office the right to revive lapsed patents, because this now requires an act of parliament and interested parties are put to considerable expense. We propose to modify that in some degree. That is briefly the gist of the bill.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Will the minister explain to the House the full benefits of the Berné Convention?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is second reading.

[Mr. Boys.]

Mr. ROBB: We shall have that as we go along in committee.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

On section 2—Definitions:

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Are there any changes in this clause?

Mr. ROBB: In paragraph (e) the letter "e" is added. That is the only change.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is in the word "patentee." What did it read before?

Mr. ROBB: I think it read "e" instead of "ee".

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: This bill does not show, as does the last bill, what changes are to be made in it. Looking at it, we do not know what the previous law was. Instead of delaying the matter, I am going to rely on the minister. Does the minister say that there is no change in this clause except the correction of the mistake in spelling in the former section 2?

Mr. ROBB: That is my information from the department.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—Patent Office.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I put the same question to the minister.

Mr. ROBB: There is no change whatever. This is the same as the old act.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—Duties of commissioner.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No change?

Mr. ROBB: No change.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—Powers of commissioner.

Mr. ROBB: I have a memorandum from the department in connection with this. I beg to move:

That clause 5 be struck out and the following substituted:

"5. The commissioner shall exercise the powers conferred and perform the duties imposed upon him by this act subject to the minister and in the absence or inability to act of the commissioner any officer or clerk named by the minister to perform the duties of the commissioner may as acting commissioner exercise such powers and shall perform such duties".

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Perhaps the minister will state the effect of that change. What is sought to be done?