

need to read it, but I will furnish my hon. friend at once with a copy.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, March 21, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that my attention having been called, by the hon. member for Toronto North, in his place, to the fact of the demise of Edward Frederick Clarke, Esq., member for the electoral district of Toronto Centre, I have, in accordance with section 8 of chapter 13 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, issued my warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

THE TELEPHONE QUESTION.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM MULOCK (Postmaster General moved :

That Messrs. Bergeron and Geoffrion be added to the committee appointed on Friday last to consider the telephone question.

Motion agreed to.

PACKING AND SALE OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES.

Bill (No. 121) to amend the Act respecting the packing and sale of staple commodities—Mr. Fisher—read the second time and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1—dimensions of apple boxes, penalty; certain packages excepted.

Mr. HENDERSON. I regret that I am again obliged to enter my strongest protest against the passage of this Bill in the form in which it is at present worded. I do not conceive that it is in the interests of the trade of Canada that the Bill should be so worded. The hon. minister has told the House in discussing the resolution on which this Bill is founded that the fruit associations of this country have described the size of box in which apples should be packed for export. I think the minister should have laid upon the table of the House some resolution of some fruit association to show us where the authority came from for fixing the special size of box which is prescribed in this Bill. In sections of the country where the fruit industry is extensively carried on there is a very strong protest against

the size of box here prescribed, and it is the more strange to me that the hon. minister should have given us that information, inasmuch as the gentlemen from whom I obtained information are members of fruit associations, and no doubt were present at some of those meetings when the matter of the size of the apple box was discussed. The difference between the minister and myself is this: I have proposed that a box should be designated in the Act, the size of which would be some well known quantity. For example, I suggested that the box should contain one-quarter of a barrel. The standard barrel of apples is a well known measure. In the old country apples are sold by the barrel, and people there understand what a barrel of apples is. We have fixed by law the size of a barrel of apples and the quantity is known amongst us—and, I believe, correctly—as three bushels. If we are going to authorize the shipment of apples in boxes containing less than a barrel, I contend that these boxes should contain some well defined, specific quantity that would be well understood by the purchaser in the old country. The box defined by the Minister of Agriculture is a nondescript box which represents practically nothing specific. It is not one-fourth of a barrel; it is not one-third of a barrel; it is no definite fraction of a barrel that the people will understand. It is less than one-third of a barrel and it is larger than one-quarter of a barrel. To my mind, the box that would hold one-quarter of a barrel would be a very much better package than one that contains no definite fraction of a barrel. When this matter was last discussed, the Minister of Agriculture almost insinuated that my object in advocating a smaller box was that the shippers in this country might take advantage of the buyers in the old country and sell them a smaller quantity with a view of enhancing the price. I had no such intention or thought, but I do tell the minister that the use of the box which he has described will have the effect of defrauding the people of the old country. The purchaser will naturally ask how much there is in the box, and he will be told it is a bushel, or one-third of a barrel, when, as a matter of fact, it is not.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How much is it short?

Mr. HENDERSON. It is very considerably short. The minister shakes his head, but I can tell him that he is all wrong; he has taken his information from young men, who have not the experience of practical men in the business, who have investigated the matter. Three boxes of the size prescribed in this Bill will not fill a barrel; a fact which has been demonstrated by practical test. The box which the minister proposes will contain the contents in cubic inches of one-third of a barrel, but he forgets that there is much waste of space when you pack three or four packages instead of one barrel, there being a large amount