

to my colleagues, inasmuch as I thoroughly concur in thinking that the Senate should not be asked to put these measures through without fuller notice than has been given. As to this particular Bill, I am in the hands of my hon. friends. As far as my information goes, the changes are in the public interest. It is a long Bill, but a great portion of it is simply re-enacting provisions of the existing law. The amendments introduced are wholly in the direction of preventing in some cases the risk of fire, and in others of providing for a more convenient extension of our forest reserves, both objects that my hon. friends will concur in thinking desirable.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed through its final stages.

#### THE ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I propose to say a few words on what may be deemed a matter of privilege. I understand that His Excellency is not at the present time in the city, and, consequently, the remarks I am about to make are, perhaps, a little out of place; but on the last occasion when Bills were assented to His Excellency was in the city, and instead of coming himself to give the Royal assent, he deputed the Deputy Governor General to come. Now, that is a practice which has not prevailed in the past. Under former governors, if the Governor General was absent fishing at Cascapedia, or out in British Columbia, his deputy came; but if the Governor General was in the city he came and assented to Bills himself. Considering that assenting to Bills is, on the whole, the most important part that the Governor General has to play in Canada, I think it is desirable, at any rate when he is in the city, that he should come here. Our parliament is composed of the two Houses and the Governor General for the time being. Each one of these branches of parliament should show a proper amount of respect for the other branches. Suppose, we will say at the prorogation, that when the Black Rod goes down to the House of Commons to summon them to attend here, instead of sending up the Speaker they were to send the Deputy Speaker, that would be

looked upon as showing a want of respect to the other two branches of parliament—to His Excellency and the Senate. If the Senate, when a message was to go to the House of Commons were, instead of sending the gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, to send the doorkeeper, it would be looked upon as a highly improper thing. This House deserves to be shown every reasonable respect in its character as one of the three branches of parliament. That is one of the reasons why I regret the incident which occurred the last time the Bills were assented to, and the other is this; I am a very strong believer in British connection, I should very much regret that the present practice of having the Governor General come from England should be discontinued. I am altogether opposed to the idea of our becoming independent and separate from the mother country. The connection which now exists is not any too strong, and I should regret that anything should be done which would tend to weaken the silken tie that binds us to the mother country. The fact that the gentleman who represents the Crown here apparently is desirous of showing that he is not necessary, and that we can get a chief justice, or an associate justice of the Supreme Court who will discharge his most important function just as well as he does, is really doing a good deal to teach the people of this country that we do not need a Governor General from England. From that point of view, it is to be hoped that future Governors General will do, as was the practice formerly, and will, unless absent from the seat of government, make it a point to do what I consider their duty as one constituent of parliament.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—My hon. friend is, perhaps, a little too severe with his Excellency.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not wish to be understood as reflecting on His Excellency. I simply think he has made a mistake, and we should enter a protest.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—There is a material difference between an adjournment and a prorogation. Unless my memory is entirely at fault, I think