

12. No coal on sale at Port Nelson. Cost of each cargo varies with the class of vessel used to transport it.

13. The number of men employed varies from week to week. The maximum number on any monthly pay-roll was 578.

14. 90 men on December pay-roll.

15. Two steamships were employed during the season of 1916.

16. Durley Chine and Sheba.

17. Both vessels owned by the Government. Cost of operation on the Hudson Bay route during 1916 was \$31,355.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. POWER moved the second reading of Bill (A), an Act to amend the Companies Act.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I have taken charge of this Bill at the request of the honourable gentleman from Rothesay (Hon. Mr. Domville), who is not able to be present.

The reason for the introduction of the Bill is, briefly, this. At the present time it is practically impossible for any person interested in a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act to get information as to the financial condition, the officers, or the internal affairs of the company. Under the existing law there is a procedure by which, in certain cases, an application may be made to a judge, and an order made, to allow a person interested to inspect the documents of the company; but that is not workable. The object of this Bill is to enable such persons to get reasonable information of what the company is doing. There are in the Bill provisions with respect to the inspection of companies, under which, instead of persons interested having to apply to a judge for an order, the Secretary of State may appoint one or more competent inspectors to investigate the affairs of any company, and to report thereon in such manner as the Secretary of State may direct. Then, as at the present time there is practically no provision for annual returns from these companies, the eleventh clause makes provision for such annual returns.

While this Bill is by no means complete or perfect, it is a step in the right direction, and I know that certain officers of the Government have been giving a good deal of attention to this question. What I purpose doing—and I trust that the honourable the leader of the Government will have no objection—is to have the Bill read

[Hon. Sir James Lougheed.]

a second time, and then referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, who will hear the officials to whom I have referred; and in that way I hope there will be produced a respectable and complete measure.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I must confess that I have not had an opportunity of examining the Bill closely; but, without committing myself to its principle, I cannot see any serious objection to referring it to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill read the second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Power, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

THE PARLIAMENTARY ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I have been asked by several honourable gentlemen whether any arrangements had been arrived at concerning the parliamentary adjournment which is expected shortly to take place. I am informed that the House of Commons will in all probability adjourn on Wednesday of this week until the 19th of April. I would suggest that when this House adjourns it might safely adjourn to the 23rd or 24th of April. The 19th of April will be a Thursday and the 24th the Tuesday following.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: My honourable friend has not told us what legislation we may expect.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I do not anticipate any legislation other than war financial measures and a proportion of the estimates sufficient to carry us over the adjournment.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON: Would that necessitate sitting at night?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: That will depend on what legislation may come down to-morrow.

MILITARY HOSPITALS COMMISSION EXHIBIT.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: On behalf of the Military Hospitals Commission, I desire to invite honourable gentlemen to view some exhibits made by the convalescent soldiers, which will be found in the lobby of the House of Commons. This exhibit shows the different kinds of work done