

Mr. BENNETT. In the event of Boon & Armstrong making a request that their dredges and plant should be admitted free of duty from the United States to perform this work, can the Controller of Customs express an opinion as to whether he will assent to their request or not. It would be grossly unfair to do so when there are Canadian dredges on the upper lakes that are private property.

The **CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS.** The hon. gentleman surely does not desire me to express an opinion on a subject which I do not know as having been before me or not. I will, however, look into the matter and make inquiries.

Committee rose, and the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:—

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of Your Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber.

And having returned,

Mr. **SPEAKER** informed the House that the Governor General had been pleased to give in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

An Act to incorporate the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company.

An Act respecting the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.

An Act for the relief of Adeline Myrtle Tuckett Lawry.

An Act respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Company, Limited.

An Act respecting the River St. Clair Railway Bridge and Tunnel Company.

An Act to incorporate the Methodist Trust Fire Insurance Company.

An Act respecting the Dominion Building and Loan Association.

An Act respecting the Canadian General Electric Company, Limited.

An Act to confer certain powers on the Board for the management of the Temporalities Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

An Act respecting the Ontario Pacific Railway Company, and to change the name of the company to the Ottawa and New York Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Canada Atlantic Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Atikokan Iron Range Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Niagara Grand Island Bridge Company.

An Act granting to Her Majesty the sum of \$26,000, required for defraying certain expenses of the Militia contingent to be sent to England for the Jubilee of Her Majesty in June, 1897.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. SPROULE. I must take some exception to part of what was said by the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) about the expenditure in the town of Collingwood, on account of there being other good harbours in close proximity to it. It is true that there are other good harbours in the Georgian Bay not far from the town of Collingwood, and where the expenditure of public money is needed from time to time; but it is also true that the town of Collingwood is one of the live towns on the Georgian Bay. The residents of that town have expended a large amount of money on the harbour, and they have three lines of steamers chiefly owned by themselves. They have the largest abattoir and meat packing establishment in the Dominion of Canada, and the lake trade in that town is very large and is increasing every year. Now, for some years past, owing to the falling of the water, it has been impossible for the people of the town to do their trade satisfactorily or profitably, because vessels when more than half laden were unable to get into the dock. I confess that I for one think the Government are doing right in making this expenditure. I think perhaps they might have gone a little further, and given an outline of the work that is to be done there, and ascertain what assistance the town is prepared to give, because I understood that an offer was made by the town a year or two ago, that in the event of the Government undertaking this work, the residents of the town would contribute \$15,000, and the Grand Trunk Railway \$10,000, which would make \$25,000. I wish to ask the Minister (Mr. Tarte) if that \$25,000 is to be included in this \$144,000 for which the contract has been let.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.**
No.

Mr. SPROULE. I am quite sure it will take a larger expenditure than this to make the harbour what it should be, and I have no doubt but that the Minister will take care that he will avail himself of the offer made by the town and the railway company, and have it included in the next expenditure he proposes there. While I think the channel is not as wide as it should be,