

## COMMISSIONER WALSH'S TRIP TO YUKON.

### MOTION.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON moved :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate, copies of all letters and reports received by the government or any department thereof, from Commissioner Walsh, while on his way to the Yukon district, or since his arrival there.

He said : I do not need to make any remark further than to express the hope that this information will be brought down in time for discussion on the Yukon Railway Bill.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I may say to my hon. friend that any official letters that it would not be against the public interest to bring down, will be brought down as early as possible.

The motion was agreed to.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (G) "An Act to better secure the safety of certain Fishermen."—(Hon. Mr. Power).

Bill (38) "An Act to further amend the Act respecting government harbours, piers and breakwaters."—(Hon. Mr. Mills).

Bill (37) "An Act further to amend the Act respecting certificates to masters and mates of ships."—(Hon. Mr. Mills).

### SAN JOSE SCALE BILL.

#### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (82.) "An Act to protect Canada against the introduction of the insect pest known as the San José scale."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It appears that an insect known as the San José scale exists in several countries from which we occasionally import nursery stock. I am told when it attacks a plant it means destruction. The insect multiplies very rapidly, indeed by the million, and it is highly important that we should exclude any stock that is liable to be affected with this scale from Canada. It is well known that we import stock very large-

ly, more particularly from the country south of us, and this pest has been found to exist there very extensively, and has already, I am sorry to say, been introduced into certain sections of Ontario. In the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, it is highly important that prompt, active measures should be taken to prohibit absolutely the importation of stock that is likely to be affected by this scale in countries where it exists; and that is the object of the present bill. The countries are not named, but I believe the scale exists in Japan, the United States and one or two other countries. This is the season of the year when nurserymen are importing stock, and therefore, to be of any use this year, it is important that the bill should be passed promptly. I may say the House of Commons passed the bill through all its stages yesterday, and with the concurrence of the hon. leader of the opposition I would ask that this House adopt a similar principle and allow the bill to go through all its stages, as it is one of great urgency, and it has already got abroad that the government propose legislation of this kind, and there will be an attempt made to rush in nursery stock in advance of the bill obtaining the royal assent. I shall therefore ask the concurrence of the House to the passage of the bill to-day. I move, seconded by Mr. Mills, that rule forty-one of this House be suspended with regard to this bill.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not think that any one in the Senate will object to the motion that has been made by the hon. Secretary of State. This bill is of very great importance to the fruit-growing industries of this whole Dominion. Unfortunately, this step was not taken a year or two ago, but at that time I do not suppose any one conceived of the injury which was likely to follow the introduction of this insect into the country. I know that in the western and central parts of Ontario it has already commenced its destructive work. Whether we shall be able to stamp it out after this law has been placed on the statute-book and that which has been made law in the province of Ontario, I do not know, but we can only hope that it will have that effect. At the last session of the Ontario legislature they took the power to destroy the fruit trees in orchards where it had made its appearance, of course providing for a certain remuneration to the