

panies shall only be allowed immediate damages in cases where a railway company has to admit the wires of any telephone company. The third clause provides for a maximum two cent passenger rate on all railways in Canada.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT, AMENDMENT.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 10) to amend the Act respecting the Senate and House of Commons. He said: This Bill proceeds on the lines indicated by the hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) a moment ago respecting the Bill which he obtained leave to introduce, except that he is proceeding by way of amendment to the Criminal Code, while I proceed by way of amendment to the Act respecting the Senate and House of Commons. However my hon. friend sees the propriety of submitting this Bill as well as the other to the committee which I hope to see appointed when it is asked for by my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) or myself.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

MONEY-LENDERS ACT, AMENDMENT.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 11) respecting money lenders. He said: This Bill is precisely the same as the Bill which was passed in the Senate in 1900. It protects borrowers from being subjected to exorbitant rates of interest. It will be found on examination that this Bill proceeds practically on the lines of the Bill introduced in England some where about 1900.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE LORD'S DAY.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 12) respecting the Lord's Day. He said: By way of explanation I would like to say that in the action of the Attorney General of Ontario and the Hamilton Street Railway, the Privy Council, in July 1903, held that the Ontario Act to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Day, treated as a whole, was beyond the competency of the provincial legislature to make. It was therefore deemed advisable to make legislation by this parliament which undoubtedly has the power to legislate in the form in which this Bill is introduced. The Bill prohibits sales, the prosecution of ordinary work or business, excursions, games for prizes, the opening of places of public amusement for which an admission fee is charged, to advertise any performance or other thing prohibited by this Act. The

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provincial Acts now in force in any province shall remain in force.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

JUDGES OF PROVINCIAL COURTS.

Mr. HAUGHTON LENNOX (South Simcoe) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 13) respecting the judges of provincial courts. He said: This is a Bill to amend an Act which was introduced and passed last year by which we increased the salaries of judges of the provincial courts. During the discussion it was stated that the judges would not after that engage in arbitration. It has been found that in some instances the judges have not understood the Act in the way that evidently the government intended it should be understood. This Bill is to prevent the practice of judges engaging in arbitrations other than those assigned to them by the government or cases of that kind. The Bill I now introduce provides that this shall not apply to any arbitrator who has actually entered upon his duties before the passing of this Act, not that it would create any complication, because generally there is provision in the instrument or Act under which arbitrators act that would prevent any difficulty—but inasmuch as it might be a hardship to some gentlemen who are at present engaged in arbitrations. It may be said, it was said last time, that judges as honourable men would not act. I do not know that there is anything dishonourable in a judge acting under the law as it exists, and the judges evidently assume that the law allows them still to act as arbitrators. This is to prevent that.

There is also provision in the Bill to enable us to get returns, more particularly in reference to the duties performed by county court judges, so that parliament will be in a position to secure what has been announced as the policy of the government or at all events that the distribution of the business will be more equitable than it has been in the past.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. WILLIAM ERSKINE KNOWLES (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, it is not without much mental perturbation that I rise to address you on an occasion such as this. I would, Sir, that I were able to speak as I should wish, and as I feel this occasion demands from me. I must, in the first place, express my gratification at, and my appreciation of the honour that has been conferred upon me in my being asked to assume this task, which I now have in hand. I desire, however, to take it rather as a recognition of the importance of western