

Hon. Mr. MILLER—There is no fault to be found with the hon. gentleman availing himself of this opportunity to exhibit his own public virtue and have a blow at the iniquity of the government. That is fair tactics, I suppose, in political war, but there is another view to be taken of the subject. I think it is objectionable to have bills of this character coming down every session. It would be better to have some permanent provision inserted in the Indemnity Act. That Act requires amendment in a more important direction, and, as we cannot introduce such legislation in this House, the government ought to see by next session that steps are taken in the branch of parliament which has control of money matters to change the terms of the Indemnity Act so that members who only come here for two or three days of the session cannot, under a forced, but, perhaps, a legal construction of the Act, draw five or six hundred dollars indemnity, if they are only a few days in attendance. I think that construction was never intended by the framers of the Act, and it should not be very difficult to find a way to amend it. The circumstances demand imperatively an amendment of the Act in this respect. I do not wish to particularize any case, because that would be perhaps discourteous, but as I think the Act requires amendment in that direction, while doing so, if this exemption was proper last session and the session before, and is proper this session, it will be proper for all future sessions. For my own part, although I have never yet taken advantage of it, I think it is not an improper or unreasonable provision to make. For instance, a gentleman attending to his duties here, is called on business, or through sickness in his family, to Montreal or Toronto; he may be called away, perhaps two or three days when there is nothing doing in parliament, and he would have no work to attend to were he in his regular place, yet those two or three days are deducted from his sessional indemnity. I think 10 days would not be too much exemption to allow to members generally, for the whole session. But there is one restriction which should be placed upon it, and which I believe should be made imperative; that is, that it should not apply to the last ten days of the session, because I am afraid that gentlemen are so anxious to get home during the last few days of the

session, that it might be found when the most important business of the country is to be transacted, as far as this House is concerned, we would have no quorum. I hope that the gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches will see that steps are taken in the other House, if it recommends itself to the wisdom of the government to alter the law in both respects.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Coming from such a long distance as I do in the North-west Territories, where we cannot take advantage of this ten or twelve days, as the others do, a very good amendment would be to divide all that the members do not earn among those who do earn it. While I recognize thoroughly that virtue is its own reward, a little aid to virtue I have no doubt would be a benefit.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Those are the only sound views on the trade question that the hon. gentleman has uttered this year.

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

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the third time on a division and passed under a suspension of the rules.

THE MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST MILLERS ASSOCIATION BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (83). "An Act to incorporate the Manitoba and North-west Millers Association."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER moved the second reading of the bill. He said: This bill is on the same line as the bill incorporating the Ontario Millers Association and is copied from it almost word for word. The different industries have a way of uniting for their own benefit, and it is the same as the bill passed in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. MCKAY—Is it intended to raise the price of wheat and flour?

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—Intended to raise the price of Manitoba wheat.