

petition for it. The Commons may have proceeded on the notices for the preceding Bill.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—There is no report on the standing orders.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (209) An Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act.—(Hon. Mr. Scott.)

Bill (109) An Act to authorize a bounty to volunteers who served the Crown in South Africa.—(Hon. Mr. Scott.)

The Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock p.m.

SECOND SITTING.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

DOMINION GUARANTEE COMPANY BILL.

REJECTED.

The SPEAKER—The Senate was without information as to the procedure followed on a Bill which a message from the House of Commons transmitted to us entitled 'An Act respecting the Dominion Guarantee Company, Limited.' The hon. senator from Bedford stated the understanding which had been arrived at, but did not know what had taken place in the Commons. This private Bill was introduced on the demand of the Finance Department, as a private Bill, to amend the private Bill, which though passed by both Houses of parliament has not yet been sanctioned, by suspending all rules in the House of Commons as to notices, petition, deposit, &c., in order to safeguard what the Finance Department thought to be the public interest, after an understanding with the promoters of the original Bill already passed, but which has not yet become an Act of parliament. The question for the Senate to decide is, if they will likewise suspend all rules. If that were done, we would be facing this difficulty: that this Bill undertakes to amend an Act which has not yet been sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor General. Could the case be met by

amending it, and changing the word 'Act' into 'Bill,' or passing it as it is with the understanding that it will be only sanctioned after the previous Bill has been sanctioned?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—There is a danger that it might be sanctioned before. I think this Bill is not in order.

The SPEAKER—It is undoubtedly not in order, unless all the rules be suspended.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I object.

Hon. Mr. BAKER—I move that all rules be suspended, so far as they relate to this Bill, and that having been consented to—

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No, it is not consented to, and I will not consent to it. Let the hon. gentleman give the regular notice.

The SPEAKER—The hon. gentleman can give notice for another session.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—That will not be in order. Three particular rules have to be suspended in regard to Bills, but there are rules that pertain to this Bill other than those three.

Hon. Mr. POWER—It occurs to me that it would be a very dangerous precedent for us to pass this Bill now, and it also occurs to me that the difficulty could be met by passing an amending Act next session.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Yes, we shall not be long away.

Hon. Mr. POWER—There is no precedent for amending a Bill which has not yet become law. Of course, you can suspend all notices, but that is also a dangerous practice. It occurs to me that if this Bill becomes an Act, it may be amended at the next session, which will be only about four months hence, I suppose.

The SPEAKER—I draw attention to the fact that the principal responsibility lies with the branch of parliament that initiated this procedure. Rules have been suspended in the other House with a view to further the public interest; but if the House decides to concur in the course taken by the Commons, it is within its own power.