

which provides that the company may enter into a contract or agreement of amalgamation with certain companies and this only adds two companies to those with whom, with the consent of the Governor in Council, they may enter into an amalgamation agreement.

Mr. LENNOX. We have given them power to amalgamate with the Grand Trunk Pacific and now the hon. gentleman proposes that they shall have power to amalgamate with two more.

Mr. CROCKET. I would like to ask the promoter of this Bill what the object of the amalgamation of this railway with the International would be?

Mr. PUGSLEY. If my hon. friend who is promoting the Bill, will allow me, I may say that I understand that certain negotiations have been going on between the Atlantic, Quebec and Western and the International. The Atlantic, Quebec and Western are in some way interested in this charter, as I understand, and, having power to amalgamate with the Atlantic, Quebec and Western, may also think it advisable to have power to amalgamate with the International so as to get their line up to Quebec.

Mr. CROCKET. Have the Quebec and New Brunswick any power in this Bill to extend their line into the state of Maine?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Only to the boundary.

Mr. CROCKET. To make connection there with a railway in the state of Maine?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That apparently has been struck out in the Railway Committee.

Mr. CROCKET. I hope the effect of this Bill will not be to divert the traffic from the northern part of New Brunswick to the state of Maine.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It could not do that.

Mr. HAGGART. What is the use of these powers unless other railways are authorized to amalgamate too? The Bill does not give you power to amalgamate with them.

Mr. MICHAUD. We will be prepared to amalgamate when they are ready.

Section as amended agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

PACIFIC COAST FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 40) respecting the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company.—Mr. Macpherson.

On section 1,

Mr. J. D. REID. Speaking generally in regard to these private Bills, I notice that

Mr. PUGSLEY.

a good many of them are passed on Friday nights when many of the members are not present. I notice also that some of these companies are taking the names of long established companies in the old country. For instance, on Friday night a Bill was passed giving the title to a company of the London and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident Company of Canada. Now, the London and Lancashire Company has been established in Canada for perhaps 80 years and this company takes the same title with the exception that the words 'of Canada' are added. The government have already licensed the London and Lancashire Company to do business in Canada and this similarity of title is liable to lead to confusion and perhaps to deceive people. Of course if the Canadian company is as strong as the other it would be all right, but this might easily not be the case. I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the matter.

Mr. FIELDING. This question of the similarity of names of companies frequently engages the attention of the department and of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and while discouraging the use of names of existing British or foreign companies doing business here, it has not been thought well that we should refuse such a name in every case as it would amount practically to a monopoly. We had that question under discussion recently with regard to an American company, and it was pointed out that a Canadian company going to the United States would not be allowed a monopoly of its own name there, but an American Company taking a Canadian name might readily be established in the United States. As a general rule, it is well to avoid a duplication of names. In the case States. As a general rule, it is well to glad to know that the London and Lancashire people are the promoters of the legislation and that it is practically that company which is doing business under a Canadian charter.

Mr. J. D. REID. I am glad to hear that; nevertheless I think it well to call the attention of the minister to the matter.

Mr. FIELDING. We are continually watching that.

Mr. HAGGART. Are the powers given under this Bill supplementary to some other powers which the company possesses under a provincial charter, or is this an entirely new charter?

Mr. FIELDING. It is a provincial company which is now being converted into a Dominion company.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, but are the powers given in this Bill supplemental to those which they have under their provincial charter?