

Hon. Mr. KERR—There would be no contract with respect to the carrying of the fall grain, because the contract is by the bill of lading. I have nothing to do with the matter at all, and assume no responsibility at all, but I know that is their wish. They called on me and I said they had better see the hon. gentleman from York; I would not take any responsibility about it; at the same time I thought it right to lay the matter before the hon. gentleman. I do not think there would be any great harm in fixing a later date. They spoke of the 1st January.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—They spoke about the 1st January at first, but they all agreed on this clause. I have been here for some time and if they considered it of great importance they could have seen me.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Was it Mr. Allan?

Hon. Mr. KERR—No, it was one of the counsel.

The clause was adopted.

Hon. Mr. WATSON from the committee reported the Bill as amended.

The amendments were concurred in.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (No. 112) An Act to amend the Railway Act as respects the Constitution of the Board of Railway Commissioners.

He said: The object of this Bill is to enlarge the present board. It is found that their duties are very numerous. The work has more than doubled since the first appointment, and it is necessary that the board should be increased.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I would ask the hon. gentleman if he would be good enough to have the Bill printed in French before we go into committee.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I shall not bring it up unless it is printed in French.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Shall these commissioners be enabled to adjudicate on any question separately?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, provision is made for that.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Otherwise it would be of very little use.

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

EXCHEQUER COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (No. 116) An Act to amend the Exchequer Court Act. He said: The object of this Bill is to allow the Governor in Council to appoint another substitute in case of the illness or absence of the Exchequer Court Judge, and also for other causes that may arise. Really the primary object was in order that Mr. Cassels might be free to devote his time to the inquiry into the administration of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

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

SIGNAL DUES AT HALIFAX BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (No. 152) An act respecting Signal dues at Halifax. He said: I shall be very glad at a later stage to give a history of this subject, which is contained in certain correspondence I have, but the main point is to make vessels of small tonnage free from those dues.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—What was the minimum before?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The first law was passed in 1859, and it applied to all steamers. From time to time changes were made in the law before Nova Scotia came into Confederation.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—It would be a very good thing if the government abolished those signal dues altogether. Whether they get more or less than the signals cost I do not know, but the revenues of the country ought to be able to carry a service like that.

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