

Mr. FOSTER: It really does not amount to anything one way or the other, in a technical sense or in a theoretical sense; but there is to a certain extent a practical side to it; there may be a practical sympathetic side which may work out into something better. Newfoundland wished to be recognized with reference to the agreement, that is to have its rights safeguarded or something like that. Newfoundland was not a party to the agreement, did not sit with the parties to the agreement and consequently neither we nor the West Indian Islands could make understandings which would bind Newfoundland. A very kindly feeling existed between ourselves and Newfoundland, and between the West Indies and Newfoundland; and some of their delegates gave free expression to the idea that when they were making their customs regulations and their laws with reference to this, they would be as friendly towards Newfoundland as they possibly could be. My own impression is that they will treat Newfoundland very much as they will treat the other British Colonies, although I am not able to say that they will.

Mr. MACDONALD: We give Newfoundland the preference now, do we not?

Mr. FOSTER: No.

Section agreed to.

On section 7—extension to United Kingdom and to other colonies.

Mr. MACDONALD: What does that clause mean?

Mr. FOSTER: It means that in some few cases very unimportant, in the variations of duties upon foreign goods, there might be more extensive changes; and the West Indian colonies get four-fifths of the duty imposed upon foreign goods coming in. If in any case that would give to the West Indies a lower entrance than the British preference gives to the British countries, the British countries would also get the advantage.

Section agreed to.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Foster, House adjourned at 11.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, January 24, 1913.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

THE ROYAL ASSENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the
Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax).

following message from the secretary of His Royal Highness the Governor General:

Ottawa, 24th Jan., 1913.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the right hon. the Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Royal Highness the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber this afternoon at 4.30 o'clock for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to certain Bills which have passed the Senate and House of Commons during the present session.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. LOWTHER, Lt.-Col.,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable

The Speaker of the
House of Commons.

REPORTS AND PAPERS.

Report of the Civil Service Commission for the year ended March 31, 1912.—Mr. Coderre.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAY CLAIMS.

Mr. MACDONALD moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 95, to amend chapter 26, of 9-10 Edward VII, entitled: 'An Act to provide for the adjudication of small claims arising in respect of the operation of Government railways.' He said: Mr. Speaker, some few years ago the Government of the day introduced a measure bearing the title which you have had some difficulty in reading a moment ago, intended to provide for dealing with the numerous small claims which are continually arising along the line of the Intercolonial railway. The difficulty which gave rise to the necessity of such legislation was this: The extent of the railway and the numerous questions arising which occasioned a right of action meant that there were a large number of claims continually being pressed upon the department which could not very readily be disposed of. The same machinery for dealing with claims as existed in the usual company railway was not found and I do not think it exists upon the Intercolonial railway. The effect of that legislation was to provide that these claims could be referred to the county court of the respective provinces where the county court existed, or, in the province of Quebec, to the court of competent jurisdiction and could there be disposed of locally. Originally all these claims which required to be adjudicated upon, went to the court of exchequer which, in dealing with some of these questions, is naturally a cumbersome court, sits but very rarely in these provinces and is not a proper tribunal to deal with such matters. The difficulty with that legislation, however, was that the extent of the jurisdiction of these various courts was limited to \$200. There was no logic