

recommended or shall it be restored to what it was in 1912? There I stop. I am not going into the merits of the question.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: May I ask my honourable friend one question? Suppose we pass this Bill to-day—suppose we pass it right now; what will happen to it? Will it get any further? Suppose we have a division; what will happen?

Hon. Mr. WATSON: We have done our part.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: It will go on Hansard, there is no doubt about that. Some will vote for and some against. But why does my honourable friend want that? For political purposes and no other.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: You may bet your life. No doubt about that in my mind.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I declared that I supported the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby), who introduced this Bill. I said it yesterday in no uncertain tone. I now declare to the Senate that I am ready to support some amendments—

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: But why does the honourable gentleman want to force it now? He knows it cannot become law now. He knows that as well as any other person.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No. I think it will become law if there is a majority in the Senate to vote for it.

Now, I rose simply to make this statement, that before considering amendments we ought to divide on the merits of the Bill as it is.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: I know what you are after.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: What are you after?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Why should the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) ask us to accept amendments altering the Bill which has come from the Commons, before we know whether or not the Senate is ready to assent to the Bill? I have not consulted the members of this Chamber. I hear from my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) that there is considerable opposition to the principle of the Bill. It must not be forgotten that we passed the second reading without binding ourselves to the principle.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And now we are at the Committee stage and are about

to consider amendments before deciding upon the principle of the Bill. I believe that we ought to find a way to decide upon the principle and the merits of the Bill before attempting to amend it. That is all I intended to say. I dislike some of those amendments. I dislike as much this morning giving the Governor in Council the right to stand as arbiter between those two great interests, bringing into the matter all the political action of a Government actuated by that vital principle of self-preservation. I refuse to do that cowardly act of passing the buck to the Government of the day. That Government may be one of which I am a member. Who knows to-day who is in power? It is because we are upon that neutral ground, because there is no Government of this country at the present moment, that I say; beware, honourable gentlemen of the Senate; beware of giving that formidable power, that exorbitant power, that scandalous power, to a Government, whatever it may be, whether Liberal or Conservative.

Hon. G. G. FOSTER: Honourable gentlemen, I dislike very much to refer again, even for one moment, to the events to which I have alluded on two previous occasions; and it is not pleasant for me, as a humble member of this Senate, to feel obliged to ask my honourable friend, even in the heat of all the political excitement which surrounds him and his political friends to-day, to keep as cool as he has done during the years past in which he has led his party in the Senate. There is nobody, I repeat, who has done anything in the Banking and Commerce Committee that was not fair, square, and above-board, and everything was done for the purpose of dealing legitimately with legislation after we had properly considered it. My honourable friend has referred, in a way that does not do him credit, to the fact that he was gracious enough to allow an adjournment of the Banking and Commerce Committee in order that members might attend a caucus. It has been insinuated before, in the press and in another place, that that caucus was a combination of members of the two Houses, and that the Conservatives of the Senate and the Conservatives of the other House met for the purpose of caucusing about this Bill. I want to tell my honourable friend that that is absolutely false.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am very glad to hear that.

Hon. Mr. FOSTER: I want to tell my honourable friend that for four years, owing to insinuations of the very character that he, unfortunately for himself, has made in this