

Vancouver and Victoria, that this Bill has been introduced.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What provision, if any, has been made to give sufficient time to dispose of opium in stock?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They will have to take it out of the country. It will not do to let the trade go on here.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Does the Act come into force by proclamation?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It comes into force as soon as it is assented to.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There is a good deal of sentiment on this question, and it has been dealt with by several countries. The history of it, as far as Canada is concerned, is one of some interest; but until we see what the provisions of the Bill are, I am not in a position to deal with it.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What revenue has the government been deriving from the importation of opium?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will find out the amount and mention it to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I suppose the object of the Bill is to suppress opium dens?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The only question is whether we ought to give time for the disposal of stock on hand. That has been discussed very often in other countries. It is felt that the opium trade is a great evil, that it is destroying body and soul of people addicted to the use of the drug. The habit is making great headway in British Columbia. Numbers of the white population, some of them women, frequent the opium dens and are under the influence of opium for days together. Nothing could be more degrading and destructive to morality than the existence of such an evil, and, therefore, it is not a drug that you can give time to those in the trade to dispose of. They want a number of years; they say it will take some years to get rid of their stock, but we could never dream of allowing anything of that kind. It would be compromising with a trade that is now condemned throughout the Christian world.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The government has been a consenting party to the importation of opium, and has been deriving a revenue from the trade.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not know when it began, but it is very degrading altogether. It should never have been allowed. They are smuggling it into the United States, and our neighbours are very indignant at our tolerating it.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Wednesday, July 15, 1908.

FIRST DISTINCT SITTING.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Eleven o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PENSION OF INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. McSWEENEY inquired:

1. How many Intercolonial Railway employees have been pensioned under the provisions of the Provident Fund?
2. Their names and the amount granted each one since the first of January, 1908?
3. Also, the number of applicants for pensions since the first day of January, 1908?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The answer given me is as follows:

To No. 1 Intercolonial Railway employees.....	162
Prince Edward Island Railway employees.....	12
Total.....	174

To No. 2 the list of the names and the amount of the retiring allowance in each case is attached.

As to No. 3, the answer is 45. I have a list of the names which I shall hand to the hon. gentleman to see what he wants done with it.