

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Order! order! order! The Chair is present.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It is the first time it has been here for three days.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Order, order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I understand this matter just as well as hon. gentlemen. I am asking the Chair if comment can be made.

The SPEAKER—No, there is nothing before the Chair.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—No, only the person in the Chair. I am glad to see him there.

VOTES FOR SOLDIERS BILL.

AMENDMENTS CONSIDERED.

A message was received from the House of Commons informing Their Honours that they had considered the amendment made by the Senate to Bill (111) entitled an Act to enable the soldiers on active military service during the present war to exercise their electoral franchise. The message was read to the House as follows:

House of Commons,
Thursday, 15th April, 1915.

Resolved, That a Message be sent to the Senate to inform their Honours that this House doth not concur in the amendments made by their Honours to Bill No. 111, "An Act to enable Canadian Soldiers on Active Military Service during the present war to exercise their electoral franchise," and that this House doth propose in lieu thereof that the said Bill be amended by adding to Subsection 2 of Section 2 the following:—

"There shall be appointed by the Governor in Council six scrutineers, three to be so appointed upon the nomination of the Prime Minister and three upon the nomination of the Leader of the Opposition, such appointments to be made within ten days of such nominations respectively. One of each nomination may be present at the distribution of ballot papers and envelopes, the making of affidavits, the marking of ballots, the closing of envelopes and the posting of the same, and may exercise all the rights which may, under The Dominion Elections Act, be exercised by candidates or their representatives at any poll. The actual travelling and living expenses of such scrutineers at a rate to be fixed by the Governor in Council, may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and they shall be afforded facilities for the performance of their duties. The said scrutineers may name such number of deputies as they may deem necessary and said deputies shall have and be entitled to exercise the powers herein above conferred on said scrutineers.

That in Subsection 2 of Section 2 the following words be inserted after the word "votes" in line 10 of the second page, "and shall give in addition to the general notice a special notice to any person whose appointment as a deputy scrutineer under the provisions herein-after made have been notified to him and shall permit any scrutineer or deputy scrutineer so named to be present at said proceedings in the

absence of any such scrutineer or deputy scrutineer on behalf of either party."

And by adding immediately after Section 3, the following:—

"(3a) Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall not come into force until a proclamation by His Majesty in Council declaring them to be in force shall be published in The Canada Gazette."

Ordered, That the Clerk do carry the said Message to the Senate.

Attest.

THOS. B. FLINT,
Clerk of the Commons.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I move that the Senate does not insist on its amendment, but that it concur in the amendments made by the House of Commons as read by the Clerk.

The motion was agreed to on a division.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I move that a message be sent to the House of Commons informing that House that the Senate does not insist on its amendment but that it concur in the amendments made by the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Before this motion is adopted I should like to add a few words to the debate which has taken place on this Bill and on other Bills which have been passed and amended by this Chamber. I have heard through the press that complaints have been made that the majority of the Senate, or the Senate itself, had shown considerable partisanship in their dealing with public Bills during the present session. I should like to draw the attention of the parties who have expressed that opinion to the fact that the majority in this Chamber has oftener during the late Administration than under the present Administration amended public Bills that came from the other House. We did so with considerable independence. The Senate has been reproached because the branch lines Bills which the Government sought to buy by Order in Council and without sanction of Parliament, was so amended by the Senate that it had to be rejected by the House of Commons. I want to affirm that in 1910, when there was a very large majority in the Senate in sympathy with the then Administration, a similar Bill came before this Chamber for the leasing of two branches that tapped the Intercolonial Railway, or connected with the Intercolonial Railway in some way. This Chamber not only added a clause to that Bill to provide that those railways should not be bought without the sanction of Parliament, but added that the Railway