

fulness and deliberate action at our hands. If I ask the hon. gentleman to leave these amendments over till to-morrow, therefore, I don't think the public interests will suffer.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE concurred in the remarks just made. He felt there ought to be due caution in these matters. The amendment referred to had been made without the notice of hon. members, himself included, and it was unquestionably of a very grave nature. The bill as it came from the House of Commons contained the word "completed" as the condition for the giving of the land and money subsidy. An independent member—not a Minister—rose at a late period of the sitting, and proposed the substitution of the words "proceeded with," instead of the word "completed," producing a change of a most momentous character. It changed the form of the message of His Excellency to the House of Commons. It was a grave question whether or not it was competent for the Senate to make this change. He (Hon. Mr. Christie) doubted very much whether it was, without an additional message from His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said although he explained the changes yesterday, he had no objection. He moved the discharge of the order and the consideration of the amendments to morrow. Carried.

THE PRINTING.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON made a few explanations on the subject of the printing for the House. He said he had had interviews with the official printer, who stated he had employed some sixty hands, and advertised in the chief cities for more, but without success. He had all the men he could procure, and at wages higher than were paid in almost any other town or place in Canada. He had made his men work on Sunday, a week or two ago, to catch up with the public work, and had paid high rates for overtime. He (Hon. Mr. Simpson), believed he was doing all he could to have the work well and expeditiously performed. He complained that in a recent instance the French proofs had been so badly corrected, by somebody in the departments, that it would have been cheaper to set up the type again. There were fully 1,000 alterations. Moreover, a bill in the orders for yesterday, was only given to the printer in the morning to put in type.

In reply to Hon. Mr. MACFARLANE,

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON said the printer was not taking any outside work. He had

transferred his newspaper and other work to new parties.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL corroborated the above statements.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said the House was indebted to the hon. chairman of the Printing Committee, (Mr. Simpson,) for the information just given, and he thought he would be but expressing the opinion of the House if he suggested that the Speaker should enquire into the matter of the extraordinary number of corrections made, complained of by the printer. It was unusual to make anything like a thousand corrections, which was calculated to delay the work very much.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the House then adjourned till Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, April 23.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL introduced a bill—An Act to extend an Act passed in 33 Vict., to amend the Penitentiaries Act of 1868:

QUESTIONS—THE MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY asked: 1st. Whether any arrangement exists between the Government or the Department of Public Works and Sir Hugh Allan or the Montreal Telegraph Company, to give him or them the exclusive right of erecting or operating telegraph wires along the line of the Intercolonial Railway?

2nd. Whether the expense of erecting the telegraph line along the Intercolonial Railway between Truro and Amherst, now used for railway purposes, has been or is to be borne by the Government, or by whom, or do the Government or the Railway Department make any payment, per message or otherwise, for the railway business done over this line?

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he had mentioned the subjects of the enquiries to the Hon. Minister of Public Works, who informed him that there is an agreement, in writing, between Sir Hugh Allan, as head of the Montreal Telegraph Company, and the Government on the subject. That the Hon. Minister suggested, however, in view of the fact that he did not, at the moment, remember all the circumstances, that the hon. gentleman should ask for the paper itself, which there would be no difficulty in bringing down.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—As to the second enquiry?