

of the Province of Quebec work well and economically. (Hear, hear, from the Treasury benches).

HON. MR. DICKEY—Something has been said of the routine of business in this Chamber, and perhaps the House will permit me to make a statement of fact, which I venture to think will interest even the hon. member who cries out question. (Hear, hear.) While at my desk this morning I have glanced over the minutes of our proceedings during the session, and I find that, while we have rejected three public bills from the House of Commons, we have materially amended no less than twenty-six sent to us for concurrence, independently of the large number of bills amended in the Banking and Private Bills Committee. (Cheers.) These facts speak in trumpet tones of the necessity of a Second Chamber—(hear, hear)—and I should venture to think silence and penny whistles of those philosophers and constitution mongers who treat the Senate as a mere ornamental appendage to the State. (Cheers and laughter.)

HON. MR. SKEAD said his friend from Toronto (Mr. Macpherson) had been advising the Government to drop the Georgian Bay contract. He (Mr. Skead) thought he also had a right to tender his advice to the Government, and that was to go on with it. When these hon. gentlemen from the southern slope of Ontario saw anything pointing northward in the way of railway improvements, they always and invariably set their faces against it. He wanted hon. gentlemen in this House particularly to bear that in mind. His friend from Toronto had remarkably changed his opinions lately. He had certainly seen some new lights somewhere. Why did he not give this advice some years ago? He (Mr. Skead) was going to throw the whole responsibility of this work on the Government, and he would support them in carrying it. We are not pledged to build the whole road to the Pacific some day or other. It was decided that we were to build it piecemeal, but it was better so than not to build it at all. He hoped his friends from Manitoba and the Maritime Provinces would take note of these facts, and if they wanted his support hereafter, let them support the Government now.

HON. MR. BROWN said if hon. gentlemen from Lower Canada, or the Maritime Provinces, or any part of Ontario, would look and see what that piece of road really meant, every objection to it would be removed. It was not only a sound scheme, but in the interest of economy, and in the interest of the whole Dominion. It was not possible for any man of common sense to look at the map and see where that road was to run, without coming to that conclusion. As to the Eastern Provinces, the whole of Quebec, and a large portion of Ontario, this road would be immensely to their advantage.

HON. MR. DEVER said he would ask permission to point out, that the Hon. the Minister of State, in introducing the Supply Bill, took particular care to keep out of sight of the Senate and of the country a very important fact. That gentleman wished to impress upon this House that the mere advance on duties by his Government was only from 15 to 17½ per cent.—a mere trifle; whereas the real facts were, that spirits of all kind had been advanced by them 25 per cent., whilst tobacco had been advanced 33½ per cent. And these being the articles consumed by the unfortunate and the poor, made the matter worse, crushing the poor, and making wages high. He therefore opposed all expenditure that could be dispensed with till more justice was had in the taxation of the people. At least a relief of two million dollars should be given on these commodities, so as to relieve the hampering of business, and the circulation of money.

The Supply Bill was then read a second and third time and passed.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.

A message was received from the House of Commons to the effect that they had agreed to the amendments made to the Insolvency Bill by the Senate, with two exceptions, for which they gave reasons.

After a short consultation, HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST moved that a message be sent to the Commons informing them that the Senate did not insist on the two rejected amendments. Carried.

The House then adjourned until three o'clock.