

port should stand until next sitting of the House. Indeed, I may say that I was not asked to move the adoption of the report at once. I did so because I wish to get away this afternoon; but as the hon. gentleman wishes to consider the matter further, I will let the motion drop and ask the House to concur in the report this evening. I therefore move that the report be concurred in at the next sitting of the House.

The motion was agreed to.

### MONTREAL AND PROVINCE LINE RAILWAY CO.'S BILL.

#### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (85) "An Act to incorporate the Montreal and Province Line Railway Co."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. BAKER moved the second reading of the bill. He said: The object of the incorporators is merely to comply with the provisions of the Railway Act and invest themselves with the rights and franchises of a railway which was sold on the 2nd March. There is nothing more in the bill. In fact, it is a reproduction of the model bill.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. BAKER moved the third reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Has the bill been submitted to the law officer of this House?

Hon. Mr. BAKER—It has, and there is a certificate on the copy of the bill that I hold in my hands that the provisions of the model bill are embodied in this measure.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That is satisfactory.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the third time and passed under a suspension of the rules.

### SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (111), "An Act

further to amend the Act respecting the Senate and House of Commons."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved the suspension of the rules so far as they relate to this bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Perhaps the hon. gentleman will explain the bill.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I believe it is to relieve members of both Houses from having twelve days' pay deducted should they have been absent twelve days during the session. It is similar to the bill that we passed last session.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—I am very sorry that this is a bill which comes within the category of money bills from the lower House, which we are not permitted to amend.

Hon. Mr. POWER—We can throw it out. I do not propose to discuss this measure. A bill of a similar character has been introduced, I think, every session since 1891. That is one of the respects in which the present parliament has broken the record. Such measures were never introduced here before. This measure and those which have preceded it are highly derogatory to the dignity of parliament and injurious to the estimation in which we are held by the people at large. Parliament adopted a plan with respect to the payment of its members which is in its essence the best which has been adopted anywhere, and I regret that the present government have thought proper to depart from the rule which has been followed in the past. If it is felt that the indemnity which the law allows is not sufficient, the law should be altered, but nothing can be imagined smaller or more undignified than to have parliament year after year passing Acts to allow members to draw pay which they have not earned. Hon. gentlemen of both Houses go home and attend to their own business and neglect the business of the country, and then come back here at the close of the session and pass a measure to pay themselves as though they had been here. I think it is highly discreditable, and I trust that we have seen the last of those bills.