

ernment of members of my own party than when they were made by a Government which I opposed.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I should like to state what I deem to be the attitude of this Chamber on such bills as these. I have always felt that legislation of this kind, concerning principally the House of Commons, should be interfered with by the Senate only if there seemed to have been a gross abuse of majority action in the other House. We should endeavour to maintain an even scale as between the two parties, and to that extent protect what for the time being is the minority. As we all know, minorities and majorities change places.

I have heard of no strong expression of grievance from the House of Commons on the two bills, and, not having read them, I am disposed to offer very little criticism.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: This possibly should be considered before we pass these Bills without looking at them. On one occasion the Commons sent a somewhat similar Bill to this House. My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) was away and I was responsible. But the Bill came earlier in the session, and I placed it in certain hands to see if it expressed the views of those who had passed it. I think I am stating it mildly when I say more than thirty errors were discovered.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: In what year?

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I do not remember. A very talented legal gentleman told me that if we had not corrected some of those errors the Act would have been unworkable.

I should be very loath to interfere with the lower House concerning elections.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Honourable members, the point raised is very important. I have spent the better part of two and a half hours elsewhere watching certain proceedings. How in the world those responsible for what took place ever got everything absolutely right is a puzzle to me. It is quite possible that in the wording of the Bill there may be all sorts of little mistakes which should be corrected. I do not say there are any, but my observation would incline me to think there are some. If there is no objection to deferring further consideration of the Bill for the moment, I shall be very glad to sit down with some person else and go through the Bill in its final form.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not doubt that even in this Bill errors could be found, but I have more confidence than I usually have, because I know the Bill was drafted—after instructions, of course—by Mr. O'Connor. He has followed it very carefully through the other House. Therefore, as no amendments have been given by him to me to be made in this House, I am pretty confident the Bill is in fair shape.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Last night, after the Bill came from the legal gentleman who had charge of it, amendment after amendment was made verbally and had to be put in writing by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. I have no doubt that Mr. O'Connor's typewritten copy would be correct, but the amendments came from all quarters.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Perhaps we ought to forgo our personal convenience and let the third reading stand until after 8 o'clock. Mr. O'Connor is in the gallery. I am inclined to think he spent last night on the Bill, after the amendments were made. But I am sure the House will feel better satisfied if the honourable member from Saltcoats (Hon. Mr. Calder) and any others who can spare the time will go over the Bill with Mr. O'Connor between now and 8 o'clock.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: After our experience of the Shipping Bill I have great confidence in the ability of Mr. O'Connor as a draughtsman. However, if the honourable senator from Saltcoats would spend an hour with Mr. O'Connor and tell us the result, my objection would be removed.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

At 6 o'clock the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 8 o'clock.

DOMINION FRANCHISE BILL

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am informed by the honourable senator from Saltcoats that he will require twenty minutes more to complete the work on the Franchise Bill. Therefore I suggest that we proceed to the next item of business.

CRIMINAL CODE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 114, an Act to amend the Criminal Code.

The Bill was read the first time.