

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed through its final stages.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (208) An Act respecting the salary of the Auditor General. He said: This Bill is for the purpose of recognizing the payment of \$5,000 a year to the Auditor General.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It only changes the salary.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is all.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Was there not a distinct refusal to increase the salary of the late Auditor General, leading up to his resignation? Can my hon. friend give us information on that?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No more than it has been represented that during the last year the cost of living has increased perceptibly, and when the government came to the conclusion that the deputy heads should be paid \$5,000 each, they included the Auditor General. In Mr. McDougal's time the Auditor General was paid on a par with the deputy heads, except in three of the departments where the deputy heads were paid extra amounts.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My recollection of what led to the resignation of the late Auditor General is that he asked the government to make some amendments to the Audit Act to enable him to discharge his duties efficiently, and when the government refused to make those changes, he asked for superannuation. I do not remember that Mr. McDougal ever pressed for an increase of salary. I do not think we have had the amendments to the Audit Act for which Mr. McDougal asked, and in view of the immense expenditures going on now, there ought to be every facility given the Auditor General to investigate.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—My hon. friend from Marshfield is quite correct, but he did not go quite far enough. A Bill was introduced in the House of Commons amending the present Audit Act, depriving the Auditor General of certain powers which he had under that Act, and which he

was exercising in refusing to pay certain demands which he contended were contrary to law. He asked to have the Audit Act so amended that he could prevent what he indicated in as plain language as possible, were frauds upon the revenue, and under those circumstances he had a row with the government, which resulted in his resignation. The late Auditor General was one of the hardest working deputy heads in the service of the government. So assiduous was he in the performance of his duties, that he ran amuck against the heads of the different departments and to such an extent that the present government made it so uncomfortable for him that rather than continue in his position with the restrictions placed upon him, and the attempts to deprive him of his powers under the Audit Act, he resigned his office. I do not know that the present Auditor General devotes as much time to the performance of his duties under the Audit Act as his predecessor did, if he does, he richly deserves the advanced salary proposed to be given him.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill passed through its final stages.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF OPIUM PROHIBITION BILL.

FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (205) An Act to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of opium for other than medicinal purposes.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved that the Bill be read the second time to-morrow afternoon. He said: Hon. gentlemen are aware that in the province of British Columbia the opium trade has become a very important part of the business of two cities there, and large amounts are being invested in it from year to year, and a good deal of opium is being smuggled from that province into the United States. An attempt is being made in nearly all the civilized countries of the world to stamp out the opium trade. Recently it was stopped in Ceylon and one or two other British colonies, and in Sumatra. It is on the strength of the report of Mr. McKenzie-King, who has been inquiring into the opium trade in