

Bill (49) "An Act to incorporate the Upper Columbia Railway Co." (Mr. Macdonald, B.C.)

Bill (48) "An Act to incorporate the Guarantee and Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank." (Mr. McCallum.)

Bill (60) "An Act further to amend the Act to incorporate the Western Assurance Co., and other Acts affecting the same." (Mr. Gowan.)

Bill (22) "An Act to incorporate the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers." (Mr. McCallum.)

Bill (85) "An Act to authorize and provide for the winding up of the Pictou Bank." (Mr. Power.)

Bill (71) "An Act to enable the Freehold Loan and Savings Company to extend their business, and for other purposes." (Mr. McMaster.)

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (N) "An Act to amend the Revised Statutes Chapter 51, respecting Real Property in the Territories." (Mr. Abbott.)

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

HON. MR. MCINNIS—Before the orders of the day are called I wish to rise to a question of privilege. I have heard a great many reflections made upon the Senate in different quarters, but something has been brought to my notice to-day which I consider the greatest insult that it is possible to offer to this House, and I find it in one of the Blue Books. In the supplementary report of the Inspector of Penitentiaries for the year ending 30th June, 1886, on page 304, there is a foot note in connection with a letter written by the Honorable Mr. Bellerose to the Minister of Justice. The sentence previous to this note reads as follows: "Pardon me sir, I do not censure, but I have reason to believe that the honorable gentlemen who have accused Mr. Inspector in Parliament, in the press over their own signatures, and in official documents, had good reasons for doing so." This is a statement made by Senator

Bellerose in a letter to the Minister of Justice. There is a star there, and the foot-note reads as follows: "The writer of this letter, Joseph H. Bellerose—honorable by accident and courtesy—is the only person who has made accusations in the press over their own signatures against Mr. the Inspector. Joseph H. Bellerose seems to think that any accusation which he sees fit to make, no matter how false, is equivalent to proof. J. G. M."

As I said before, if this House has any respect for itself, it will certainly put itself right as far as possible. An attack made upon any one member of this House is an attack made upon the whole body. It is a gross insult and indignity, which, I think, this House should resent. From what little I know of the Minister of Justice, I must say I refuse to believe that he would sanction such a note being made in any public document.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I thank the hon. gentleman who has called the attention of the House to the circumstance. I thank him also for having given me notice, before the sitting, that he would do so, because it gave me a few minutes to consider what I should do and say. The book to which the hon. gentleman has referred contains some very reprehensible attacks on a member of this House and one especially of a very serious character—the worst I have heard of in my long political career, and worse than I ever saw in a public document. It is not my intention to say much on this occasion since I am the party who has been selected in this House to be the object of attack and the occasion of a breach of the privileges of Parliament. To my mind the insult is greater to this honorable body, of which I am a humble member, than it is to myself. In May's Parliamentary Practice I find the following words:—"Interference with or reflections upon members have always been resented as indignities in the House of Lords or in the House of Commons in England." Again the author says: "Such offences have always been resented in England as indignities to the House." In this instance the circumstances attending the attack have made it even worse than it appears