

which is to be the official basis from which the copies will be printed, and it is for that reason it was deemed advisable. Ninetenths of this Bill are in the words of the Act of 1903, but it was thought better to revise them as one or two new clauses were being introduced.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman repeals that Act by this Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—But this does not come into force until the revised statutes come into force in January, 1907.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Will the report from that commission be laid on the table?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is here now. There are two copies in the House now for any hon. gentleman to examine. They are on the table and will be left on the table from day to day.

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

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Hon. Mr. KERR—There is no reason why we should not have the third reading now.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I could understand if the House was to take a long adjournment that the suggestion would be a good one, but inasmuch as we have been informed that we are likely to sit here until the 12th December, and as we shall have nothing to do for a portion of that time, and these revised statutes are not to come into operation until the 1st January next, I do not see any reason why we should omit the usual committee stage of the measure; and it is only right that when we do go into committee we should have the roll of the revised statutes before us, so that we may form some idea of what we are asked to ratify.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They are on the table.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes, but they have been just placed on the table, and I for one have had no opportunity of seeing them. I should like to see them before finally voting on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I would suggest that as the hon. Secretary of State will probably submit the report some time during this sitting of the House, our Journals should show that the submission of the report precedes the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The report is in the statutes itself.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My suggestion is that it should take priority on our minutes of proceedings to the motion for the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The volumes themselves constitute the report.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—When Sir Alexander Campbell laid similar documents on the table, they had been first signed by the Governor General and by the Clerk of the Senate, and, if I remember correctly, looking over the law which is now being repealed, that same provision exists. Is that practice revived in this statute, or is that formality done away with? This report before being laid on the table should be certified to by the Governor General and the Clerk of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They are incomplete. The index is not in, but it is being prepared. Otherwise they have been carefully gone over by the commission and certified. In the case of 1886 there was no parliamentary legislation authorizing the Governor in Council to bring them into operation. The House itself considered the revised statutes after the commission had left them, and a committee sat for weeks and weeks in this chamber going over every chapter of them. That was not intended in this case. A different mode of operation was adopted.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I understand now that the matter is not in such a state that my hon. friend can present the revised statutes to the House at this day. That being so, as the hon. senator from Halifax has said, there is no reason why we should proceed with the second reading to-day. It will go on record that we have given this Bill a second reading before we had received the statutes, and it would be a pity that such a thing should be on record.