

and Bowmanville. The 'Queen' at Oshawa, Bowmanville, Dunbarton and Pickering. The 'Sir Richard' at Hawkesbury, Grenville, Bath and Adolphustown.

Some resolutions reported.

On motion of the Minister of Finance, House adjourned at 12.25 a.m., Friday.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, May 8, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 169) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of James Sinclair Macdougall.—Mr. Malouin for Mr. Gallery.

Bill (No. 170) to incorporate the Nipigon Iron Range Railway Company.—Mr. Dymont.

Bill (No. 171) to incorporate the Chatham, Wallaceburg and Lake Erie Railway Company.—Mr. Stephens.

Bill (No. 172) to incorporate the City and County Bank of Canada.—Mr. Rosamond.

### DISALLOWANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA STATUTES.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax) moved :

That the correspondence relating to the disallowance of the statutes of the province of British Columbia be printed forthwith, and for that purpose rule 94 be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

### PACIFIC CABLE.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask my hon. friend the Prime Minister whether he is able to give any information to the House as to the probable liability which we will incur by the reason of the recent developments in the Commonwealth of Australia with respect to the Pacific cable. It is not necessary for me to recall the circumstances to the House. I refer to those which have been given publicity in the public press. The colony of Victoria, it appears, made certain concessions to the Eastern Telegraph Company and the government of the Commonwealth proposes apparently, in lieu of those concessions, to grant a concession extending all over that commonwealth for a limited period of years. That is, briefly speaking, the position of the

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND.

matter, as I understand it, but of course my right hon. friend would be much more familiar than I with the particulars. I understand that negotiations have taken place between this government and the government of Australia with regard to the policy of the latter in this connection, and it would be desirable for us to know what has taken place. If my right hon. friend is not in a position to inform the House now, he can take this as a notice, and give the information at a later day. But we would like to know what communications have taken place and what effect this change of attitude of the Commonwealth of Australia is likely to have on the Pacific cable scheme.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Briefly stated, the position is this: Shortly before the Commonwealth of Australia was formed the government, not of Victoria, but of New South Wales, had made a contract with the Eastern Telegraph Company, which is not, we think, in accord with the undertaking assumed by the different governments which participated in the establishment of the Pacific cable. We protested at the time, but when confederation of the Australian colonies came into effect it was too late to overcome the difficulty. The arrangement was made for an indefinite time, but the government of Australia have since contemplated making an arrangement whereby the Eastern Telegraph Company would shorten the monopoly granted them to ten years, but it would be extended, not only over New South Wales, but over the whole continent of Australia. We think that this last arrangement would be more detrimental than the first. It must be evident that if, during ten years, the Eastern Telegraph Company have power to establish telegraph stations all over Australia, at the end of the time they will have a practical monopoly and retain control of the whole business, and thus come in conflict with the Pacific cable. We have protested to the Australian government, and the best information we could give to the House would be to bring down the correspondence, which I will be happy to do at an early day.

### SUPPLY—MONTREAL LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding) moved that the House again go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the government whether they have any information to give regarding the strike at Montreal? It may be that negotiations are in such a condition that it may be not advisable for the government to say anything, but if there is any information which they can give, the House is entitled to it. I would like to call attention to the fact that the Mayor of Montreal has said