

ter carefully, will come to the conclusion that the motion is perfectly right. It is quite within the competency of parliament to invoke the power of the Governor General at all times on all questions. We have sometimes taken another course and moved that an order of the House should issue, but I purposely adopted the course I have taken because I found we had very great difficulty last year in getting returns from the Board of Commissioners. They gave my hon. friend the then leader of the House a good deal of trouble, and intimated that they did not think it was their duty to attend to such matters as furnishing returns to the House—something to that effect—and therefore I have adopted the course which I think is open always to members of parliament, to make a motion that an address be moved to the Governor General in order to get any information required in regard to governmental affairs. My motion is a double one. It not only calls for some information from the Railway Board, but it also asks for certain orders in council, if any such have been passed.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I should like to ask my hon. friend from Marshfield if, in the interests of parliament and business, he would not agree to a slight alteration in the wording of his resolution: It will be noticed that the hon. gentleman asks for copies of all requests to the Board of Railway Commissioners and also copies of all orders in council made within the last twelve months. Now, there have been many applications to the Privy Council and there have been many orders in council, and I think if the hon. gentleman would content himself by asking for abstracts or summaries of the requests and the orders in council he would save a good deal of unnecessary clerical labour on the part of the officers of the Railway Commissioners and would attain the end he wishes to attain just as well. You see at the close of this resolution it is set forth that the dates of making such requests or orders in council shall be given. That will remain, but if the hon. gentleman will just substitute extracts or summaries for the word 'copies,' he would save a good deal of unnecessary work.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—If my hon. friend represented the government in the remarks which he made I would consider there was some force in them, because then there would be information behind the statement that it involved a great deal of work; but I am informed, and I think on what is very good authority, that there will not be more than one or two documents of either kind in existence to be brought down, and perhaps no orders in council at all. I am quite sure it is not a voluminous return.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It might be pointed out that it will involve much more labour to condense, analyse and make a summary of these requests than to copy them. Better have the full document rather than an abstract.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I may say before this motion is put that I have notified the Railway Commission to furnish the information the hon. gentleman asks for.

The motion was agreed to.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (C) An Act to amend the Railway Act.—(Hon. Mr. McMullen).

SECOND READING.

Bill (A) An Act relating to the Water Carriage of Goods.—(Hon. Mr. Campbell).

ANNUITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved the second reading of Bill (B) An Act to amend the Government Annuities Act.

He said: This Bill is intended to amend in two or three small particulars the Annuities Act which was passed last session. I will just briefly explain the purpose of these amendments and we can discuss them more fully, if hon. gentlemen wish, in committee. In the first place, the House may possibly remember that the Annuities Act as it stands limits the total amount which can be paid to a husband or wife or any other parties to a matter of \$600. Now, we propose in the working of this Act to allow