

It may be. That will depend partly upon the form of that measure, and until everything relating to these measures is settled by the government, it is impossible that I can answer my hon. friend with regard to any of these measures as to whether they will be introduced into this chamber or not.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The hon. gentleman has not answered a part of my question. In addition to asking him whether the Plebiscite Bill would be introduced here I wanted him to tell the House whether it would be introduced at an early date either here or elsewhere.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I think so. I think within a fortnight it will be introduced in one House or the other.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, 14th March, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—Before the Orders of the Day are called I should like to make a few remarks. It is not very often that I take any notice of what appears in the newspapers, but a cutting has just been placed in my hands which I think requires some notice, because there are details in connection with it which will be required to be looked into. The cutting is as follows:—

A \$300,000 BRIBE FOR THE SENATE.

(Special to the Journal.)

TORONTO, March 13.—The *World's* Montreal special correspondent says a fund of \$300,000 has been raised to bribe the Senate to pass the Yukon Railway Bill.

I have always understood that there were good chances of making money out of politics. Personally, however, I have hitherto had the hardest kind of luck. Possibly that may be because in my profession it is not perhaps one of the vehicles or contingencies under which the great spending of money arises. Had I had the good luck to be a railway contractor, or perhaps a book publisher, I might have had a chance of some of the soft snaps, the fat things that are lying about loose with a good rake off possibly attached to it. But as far as I am concerned in my political career I have never seen one single opportunity in which there was a chance for the boy. Now, however, an opportunity seems to present itself, and from the way in which it has come up it would appear as though care had been taken that this matter should be placed upon a basis where "business is business." I do not know exactly whether we are going to be able to seize the opportunity to take advantage of it or not, but I have taken the trouble to look up the amounts which should be distributed amongst those of us who are entitled to share in this allotment. I do not consider that the Liberals are entitled to anything at all. They will be obliged, necessarily, you know, to vote for this bill without any fee at all, free of expense. Taking their numbers, as the House appears to be constituted since the reform of the Senate which we have heard so much about, I would place the number at 20. That would leave a remnant of 64 amongst whom the nest egg should be divided, and a small computation will show that that would allow about \$4,720 apiece. I do not think it is enough. Considering the magnitude of the undertaking and the great interest involved, I think we should make a strike and not act for less than \$5,000 each in round numbers. But seriously, hon. gentlemen, does not the House think it is scandalous and monstrous that such a thing should be allowed to be published in one of the newspapers of the country, and to be circulated abroad from one end of the country to the other, not only in this country, but also in the United States press, and possibly find its way into the English newspapers. Supposing the contingency should arise, that this bill were to pass through this House, a great many people will take this report in dead earnest. There is not one of us here which has ever declared himself opposed to it, and if we saw fit to change our views