

unless it does, I cannot myself see what advantage there would be in going to the large expense of establishing a mint for the purpose of coining four or five millions of gold, or more—I do not know exactly how much is held by the banks and by the Government—but whatever the amount may be, it cannot be very enormous, and the expense of establishing a mint would undoubtedly be large, and unless we issue a debased coinage, as the United States did with reference to their silver, every dollar of which is worth really (intrinsically) only 80 cents, I do not see where we could make any profit in coining gold. However, these are only very crude and probably very absurd ideas of mine on the subject. It is one so large and so important that it would require careful discussion and consideration with reference to a great many subjects which my hon. friend has entirely omitted to notice. The subject is one that is peculiarly within the province of the gentleman who has charge of the financial interests of the Dominion, and on which it would be well, if the idea were seriously entertained, that we should have his views at length; and probably the proper source from which we should take this subject for consideration would be from another House, which is peculiarly charged with the financial business of the country, and where persons have made that financial business their study, of whose opinions we might avail ourselves, to greater advantage, perhaps, than by discussing the subject in this House, which is not competent to initiate financial matters, and does not usually deal at any length with such matters. I may say that the Government have had the question of the establishment of a mint under their consideration, and that they are decidedly of opinion that it would not be expedient, or in the interests of the country at this moment, to take the step which my hon. friend suggests in his motion. Perhaps my hon. friend would not press the resolution.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—I just want to make a remark or two in reply to what has fallen from the leader of the Government. He wishes this House to believe that this matter is really not within our prerogative—that this subject of coinage peculiarly belongs to the other House. I certainly cannot take that view. In the

other House, as a general thing, the members are much younger in years and in experience than in the Senate. I believe if there is a body at all competent to deal with a question of this nature it is to be found within these walls. I am sorry that the leader of the Government has taken the view that it is inexpedient to proceed with this motion. However, I feel that I have done my duty and I hope that the hon. gentleman who leads this House so ably will, before another year rolls by, change his views on the subject.

HON. MR. POWER—It is possible that there may be a change of Government.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—Possibly; but I think that is scarcely probable in another year. However, as I find that the leader of the Government is opposed to it for the present, I ask permission to withdraw the resolution, but I do not intend to let this matter drop. I shall add to the little knowledge I have on the question, and if I am spared another year I shall re-introduce it in some form, unless the Government in the meantime become converted to my view and adopt it.

The motion was withdrawn.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (32) "An Act to incorporate the Grand Orange Lodge of British America." (Mr. Clemow.)

Bill (72) "An Act respecting the Summerside Bank." (Mr. Howlan.)

VAUDREUIL AND PRESCOTT RAILWAY CO.'S BILL.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

A Message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (58) "An Act to change the name of the Vaudreuil and Prescott Railway Company to the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company."

The Bill was read the first time.

HON. MR. LACOSTE moved that the 41st Rule of the House be suspended so far as it relates to this Bill. He said: My reason for making this motion is to expedite the passage of the Bill, the object of which is merely to change the name of the company. The Bill is of very little importance to the public, but very important to