

roads could be induced to take this package freight to Quebec.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: According to the argument of my honourable friend, the only time that grain could be shipped from the Maritime Provinces is in the winter, when these other points are closed up.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON: Yes.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: No, summer and winter.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON: You will never make a success of shipping grain from St. John and Halifax during the summer months.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: I understand the honourable gentleman to say that the St. Lawrence route is the cheapest possible route to the ocean.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON: Yes.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: How would the Georgian Bay Canal compare with it?

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON: The Ottawa river was originally a short route for the trappers, voyageurs, and Indians, from the St. Lawrence to the Georgian Bay and the West. Sentimentally it is splendid; historically it is very nice; but as a business proposition it is impossible, and the sooner this Commission that the Government is paying money to is done away with the better. The Ottawa river rises and falls 17 feet in a year, and the report of the Commission says it is very doubtful if there is sufficient water at the height of land, and it advises several years of careful consideration. In addition to that, there are some 34 half-mile curves in that canal, and to take a boat which is 650 feet long around a half-mile curve—

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: Then the honourable gentleman would agree that it is a twin brother to the Hudson Bay railway?

Some Hon. SENATORS: No, no.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: How many bushels of wheat will the largest steamer on the lakes carry?

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON: The largest steamer on the lakes would carry 400,000 odd bushels, but the ordinary carrier has a capacity of from 330,000 to 360,000 bushels. She will draw 19 feet of water—perhaps not quite that. It is not very often that she can get through the Soo canal when she is drawing 19 feet.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, September 3, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE SENATE.

Monday September 3, 1917.

The Senate met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON presented the report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, to whom was referred Bill Q2, an Act to amend the Companies Act.

He said: I should like to state that this report represents a great many hours' work on the part of the Banking and Commerce Committee at a great many sittings. A most exhaustive study has been given to the Bill; and, while it incorporates very largely the Imperial Act, it is made to conform to the conditions in Canada, provincial as well as federal. I regret to notice, by a report from another place, that \$5,000 for the administration of the Companies Act is to be withdrawn, and that a Bill for the revision of the Companies Act which had been introduced by the leader of the Senate it has been found impossible to go on with this session. I should like to say further that this matter ought to be treated in a different manner, as it would be if there were on the part of the representatives of the other House such a disposition to expedite legislation coming from this House as is exhibited by the honourable leader of the Government in this House toward their legislation. My honourable friend the leader of the Government (Hon. Sir James Lougheed), I find by the Minutes of Proceedings, asks that the several standing committees be allowed to sit during the sittings of the Senate, and that all the rules in respect of legislation be suspended, in order that we may deal with legislation coming from the other branch of Parliament. They are asking us to deal with very important legislation—legislation that is controversial, that has taken a great length of time. I really think that, after the work which has been devoted to this Bill, it should be passed at this session. We should enter a protest. The other branch of Parliament should treat our legislation as we are disposed to treat theirs.