

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—When the amended Bill came back to us, the amendment made by the House of Commons to the Bill was concurred in by this House, and the Speaker then in reading the motion read the usual notice that a message be sent—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It was not sent.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Why was it not sent? That is the point I am coming at. The usual notice by the Speaker was, that a message be sent to the House of Commons stating that this House concurred in the amendments made to the Bill. If the message was not sent, why was it not sent, and whose duty was it to send it?

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—The error was discovered before it was sent.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If the clerk of the House informed us that the order given by the Speaker to return the Bill with the intimation that we had concurred in the amendment has not been sent, let the Senate be informed of it in that way.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I refer to our 'Minutes,' page 706, where I find the following:

A message was brought from the House of Commons by their clerk, to return the Bill (TT) intituled: 'An Act respecting the Montreal Bridge and Terminal Company,' and to acquaint this House that they have passed the said Bill with an amendment, to which they desire the concurrence of the Senate.

The said amendment was then read by the clerk as follows:—

In the Title.

After 'company' add 'and to change its name to the Montreal Central Terminal Company.'

On motion of the honourable Mr. Campbell, seconded by the honourable Mr. Jaffray, it was Ordered, That the said amendment be agreed to.

Ordered, That the clerk do go down to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that the Senate doth agree to their amendment to the said Bill, without any amendment.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—These facts were admitted at the outset.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Was that done?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—It was not done.

Hon. Mr. OWENS—The error was discovered.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is still before us.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Excuse me. The hon. gentleman says it is before us; in order to get it before us we have to rescind that order.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—The hon. gentleman from Hastings has asked the clerk to make a statement. Of course the clerk cannot make any statement in this House, but he can give information to the Speaker. I should like his honour the Speaker to inform the House whether he was notified before he sent that message to the clerk that a mistake had been made and to hold the Bill here to make a correction?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That is what I suggested.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—That has no effect upon the point of order.

The SPEAKER—I may say that the clerk of the House informed me shortly after he had acted upon the motion, that the Commons had discovered the omission of certain other amendments, and that they wanted to have those amendments inscribed on this Bill. I told the clerk, of course, that it should not be done in that way, and that under the circumstances the message had better be sent from this House advising them of it at all.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—So the order of this House was set aside.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—It is really a very nice point of procedure, and it is very important as to how we are going to settle it. If I understand aright, by this message which is sent to us we are asked to amend a Bill which has passed the third reading in this House. If we are going to introduce something further into the Bill, it means practically that the Bill is open for discussion and placed back on the order paper. If that is so, what prevents the leader of the government or any member of this House moving that the Bill be placed on the order paper and reconsidered. We may have to suspend the rule.