

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is not a very serious matter.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—I remember when this branch of the service was established. My hon. friend remembers it also, and at that period the insurance companies agreed with the government to allow themselves to be assessed to pay the expenses of the office; but I quite agree with the hon. gentleman who has just spoken; why should they be taxed to pay the expenses of the department any more than any other company, the banks, for instance, or any other corporation where an inspector is appointed to look after and inspect their business. It is a question well worthy of the government's consideration. There is one thing certain, the greater the tax put upon the insurance companies, and the more they have to pay, whether it be directly or indirectly, the more it adds to the expense of carrying on the company and that must of necessity proportionately come out of the policy-holders.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is a small matter, and not worth while discussing. We cannot make any change.

Hon. Mr. COX—It is \$20,000 a year.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will call the attention of the Minister of Finance to it.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed through its final stages under a suspension of the rule.

TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE TO GREAT BRITAIN BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Moved the second reading of Bill (201) An Act to assist in maintaining an independent and efficient service of telegraphic news from Great Britain for publication in the Canadian Press.

He said: For some years a subsidy of \$50,000 has been paid to a company to supply the newspaper press of Canada with European news. The grant terminates the present year. The people who are engaged in the business, the press of the country, have pressed the government to continue it for a couple of years longer. They say that the service is not self-sustaining, and they have asked to have it continued. It is being

continued but at a less sum. This Bill provides that for the year ending March next the sum should be \$9,000 and for the fiscal year terminating on the 31st March, 1910, it shall be \$12,000, and then for the next year \$3,000.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This Bill has not been distributed, and I think we might let it stand until it is distributed.

The order was allowed to stand.

SOURIS BRANCH LINE OF THE PRINCE EDWARD RAILWAY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (202) An Act to authorize the construction of a branch line of the Prince Edward Island Railway from Harmony, on the Souris branch, to Elmira.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Is that the Bill to insure the return of government members in Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Halifax)—The more you do for Prince Edward Island in money matters the greater opposition the government receives in the country.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman speaks from experience, he obtained \$100,000 for his small constituency, and then they would not nominate him, so that he knows what he is talking about.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—We heard some person say that the Liberals never kept any of thier promises; but perhaps my hon. friend will feel obliged to me if I point out an instance where a promise has been kept, perhaps a little tardily. I attended a meeting at Elmira during the last election, the first meeting held in Kings county when the government candidate promised the railway, and if he did not get it in one year he would never ask the people to vote for him again. This is the fourth session, and he will be able to go back and tell the people "Well I did not get it in a year, but I got it."

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It does not follow that the government will build this railway because it has been put in the estimates.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—How long is the road?