

this country cannot look forward to a strong and permanent and progressive future.

Mr. PATERSON. Are you coming back after dinner hour?

Mr. FOSTER. And now my hungry friend the Minister of Customs can go home and take his biscuits.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

STERLING TRUSTS CORPORATION.

Consideration of amendments made by the Senate to Bill (No. 32) to incorporate the Sterling Trusts Corporation.—Mr. Martin (Regina).

Mr. MARTIN (Regina). Mr. Speaker, this Bill has come back from the Senate with two or three minor amendments, but, I submit, they are not of such importance as would justify us in referring it back to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. Section 5 of the Bill, as it left this House, provided that the company shall not commence business until at least \$200,000 of stock has been bona fide subscribed and \$70,000 paid. The Senate inserted the word 'five,' making it \$75,000 to be paid. I presume that was a simple clerical error to begin with. Section 11 of the Bill provided that:

Moneys, properties and securities received or held by the company upon trust or as agent shall not be liable for the debts or obligations of the company.

The Senate cut out that clause entirely, I suppose, on the ground that that is the law in the event, and it is not necessary to enact it in the charter of the company. Section 15, referring to provincial laws, has been also cut out entirely by the Senate. Section 18 of the Bill as it passed this House, was as follows:

The powers granted by this Act shall expire, and this Act shall cease to be in force, at the end of two years from the passing thereof, unless the company goes into actual operation within such two years.

The Senate has put in the words 'for all purposes except the winding up of the company.' I would ask that the Bill be considered now.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have no option in the matter if the amendment is other than clerical or unimportant. Otherwise the Bill must be referred back to the committee. It is for the House to decide.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think it had better be referred back. The amendment seemed to be more than merely clerical.

Mr. SPROULE. We do not have a copy of these amendments and we cannot exercise our judgment upon them.

Mr. MARTIN (Regina). If I may be permitted to say a word again, to my mind there are nothing but really minor amendments made by the Senate.

Mr. SPROULE. The rule says:

When any private Bill is returned from the Senate with amendments, the same not being merely verbal or unimportant, such amendments are, previous to the second reading, referred to the standing committee to which such Bill was originally referred.

If you cut out a lot of the Bill it is not an amendment that is merely verbal.

Mr. NESBITT. When my hon. friend (Mr. Martin, Regina) says that the amendments are unimportant, I presume that he means that they are unimportant to anybody except the company, and if the promoter and the company are willing to accept them it cannot make any difference to us.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the amendments to this Bill are very important.

Mr. SPEAKER. If there is any doubt about the matter I have to rule that the amendments are important, and the Bill will have to go back to the committee.

Motion agreed to, and Bill referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

IMPERIAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Consideration of amendments made by the Senate to Bill (No. 105) to incorporate the Imperial Steamship Company.—Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. BRODEUR. Will there be any objection to this Bill being referred to the Committee on Marine and Fisheries? It is a matter pertaining to marine.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not hardly think that is according to the rule. It lays down the class of Bills that goes to the Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph lines, that which goes to the Banking and Commerce Committee and it provides that all other Bills shall go to the Private Bills Committee. This certainly is a private Bill other than a Bill affecting a railway, canal or banking corporation.

Mr. BRODEUR. I simply made the suggestion as it is a Bill affecting marine, and perhaps it would be better that it should be examined by that committee. Of course, I know very well what the rule says, but this reference is only for the consideration of the amendment.

Mr. SPROULE. We have never sent Bills to that committee; to do so would be doing something without authority and establish-