

am in a position to say that that committee has never made an appointment. Appointments have always been made by the Governor in Council, or, possibly by the premier; because the library is supposed to be under the special care of the premier of the day. I assume that the appointments are made by order in council. If my amendment were adopted, the action of the Governor in Council would be subject to ratification by the two Houses when parliament met again, and that seems to me a reasonable proposition.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—We have two difficulties here; one is to provide for the retention of the status of our officers and the other is, how to bring this whole thing into operation, parliament not being in session. I do not think any great public loss will occur if this Act be not allowed to go into operation until ten days after the meeting of parliament. It would give both Houses of parliament the right to act of themselves. How can we, when the Bill has received the royal assent, do anything that would be effective in carrying it out.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It seems to me the opposition to the Bill is wholly unnecessary.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It is not opposition to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The control in the past has been under the Contingent Accounts Committee to be approved by this Chamber. Why cannot the committee meet before the House rises and deal with the question? Then if the Senate approves of that disposition of it, authorize the Speaker to confirm it when the Act comes into operation. There is no difficulty; it is smooth sailing. No one can contest it.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I move to add the following at the end of the clause:

Or if such action is required during the recess of parliament, by the Governor in Council, subject to ratification by the two Houses at the next ensuing session.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Under clause 23, could not a temporary clerk on the list be appointed to fill a position of that kind?

Hon. Mr. POWER.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—If that is subject to ratification, it would not take effect until ratified. What is the good of it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It would be acted on.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Supposing the House would not approve of it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think that is conjuring up a difficulty. You have to meet the emergency in some way, and I think we shall be equal to it.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—I can see no benefit arising from the amendment. The Governor in Council has exercised that power for years gone by, and no injustice has occurred.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The difficulty is, that this clause we are now considering takes the power away from the Governor in Council and vests it in the two Houses by joint resolution. We cannot get the two Houses to act between the prorogation and the meeting of parliament.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—Either House has the right to this authority. This clause would not remove the authority heretofore existing with the government of the day to exercise that jurisdiction in the future as they have in the past, and, therefore, I do not see any necessity for it unless you are trying to take away from the Crown rights and privileges they have heretofore enjoyed. If the amendment is intended to deprive the Crown of that authority, let us know it.

The clause was amended and adopted.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee, reported the Bill with amendments which were concurred in.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

SOURIS BRANCH OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY.

THIRD READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the third 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.