

“The Canada Eastern Railway Company.”
(Mr. Botsford.)

Bill (46) “An Act to incorporate the Mount Forest, Markdale and Meaford Railway Company.” (Mr. Dever.)

Bill (26) “An Act relating to the Canada Southern Bridge Company.” (Mr. MacInnes, Burlington.)

Bill (25) “An Act respecting the North-Western Coal and Navigation Company.” (Mr. Ogilvie.)

Bill (51) “An Act respecting the Hereford Railway Company.” (Mr. MacInnes, Burlington.)

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. LACOSTE moved the second reading of Bill (19) “An Act to amend the Copyright Act.” He said: This Bill is merely to give to the Exchequer Court of Canada concurrent jurisdiction with the other courts in cases of conflicting claims.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

TRADE MARKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. LACOSTE moved the second reading of Bill (18) “An Act to amend the Act respecting Trade Marks and Industrial designs.” He said: This Bill is for the same purpose as the preceding one. Its object is to give jurisdiction to the Exchequer Court in cases of conflicting claims.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THE DEBATES OF THE SENATE.

SECOND REPORT OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE REJECTED.

The Order of the Day—“Consideration of the second report of the Select Committee on the Debates and Proceedings of the Senate”—being called,

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE said: It is my duty to explain to the House how it happened that a debate which occurred quite a fortnight ago should be brought forward for consideration to-day. The circumstance occurred in this way: a debate arose

on the report of the Committee on Contingencies, which was referred back to that committee. On the following day, or the day after, a meeting of the Debates Committee was called on quite different business, when the question came up as to whether that report should be published in the *Debates* or not. The majority of the committee present—there was a bare quorum at the time—recommended that it should not be printed, and orders were given to the reporter accordingly. But, as chairman of the committee, and thinking that that might give rise to a question upon which there would be great difference of opinion, I directed that the short-hand notes of that debate should be preserved, and I have a transcript of them here in my hand. Immediately after that meeting of the committee there was an adjournment of the House, and consequently nothing could be done until after the re-assembling of the Senate the following week. Then, finding that considerable dissatisfaction was expressed in some quarters because the report of the debate had not been published in its regular order, I took steps to call the committee together a second time. Owing, I suppose, to the recent adjournment which had taken place, there was considerable pressure on the different committees and in the different rooms, and the consequence was that we could not find an open day and an open room until last Friday. Then the committee met and took up this question as the first part of their business, and had it pretty well discussed and ready to vote upon when it became necessary to adjourn. However, the question had been put to the members present and had been decided against printing the debate. Now, whether it is a judicious thing for any committee to possess the power to order a debate of this House to be printed or not printed is a question, I think, of very considerable importance, and it is highly necessary that it should be settled by this House. The report of the Contingent Accounts Committee, to which this debate relates, has only this day been presented to the House. It was referred back to that committee to reconsider certain paragraphs, and if anything could justify the withholding of the debate for a time it is the fact that these paragraphs which were referred back to the Committee on Contingencies have only this day been pre-