

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed through its final stages.

THE TARIFF BILL.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Perhaps the hon. leader of the House might tell us when he expects the other Bill, the Tariff Bill, up?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The Tariff Bill is being discussed in the House of Commons to-night, and there are expectations that it will reach its final stage, so that we may be able to prorogue to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—We will expect a discussion of the measure in this House.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Of course, hon. gentlemen will be at perfect liberty to discuss it when it comes before them. It is to be hoped that it will be introduced here to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I think there are provisions in it that could be fairly discussed, for future purposes.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There is nothing to prevent a discussion.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—Is that the only other legislation?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That is the only other legislation of which I am aware.

Hon. Mr. DERBYSHIRE—The Patriotic Bill?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There is a Bill to incorporate the Patriotic Fund Association.

The Senate adjourned until 10.30 a.m. to-morrow.

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Saturday, August 22, 1914.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 10 a.m. Prayers and routine proceedings.

VACANCIES IN THE SENATE.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—With the kind permission of the leader of the Government I would like to direct his attention to a condition of things affecting the Senate which has no precedent in the history of Canada. We all know that under the constitution the seat of a senator becomes vacant by the very fact of his absence during two consecu-

tive sessions. That is not debatable or disputable. Now we are in the fourth session of the 12th Parliament of Canada—unprovided for, unlooked for, but, I was going to say, not uncalled for. Many of our hon. colleagues are absent, forcibly absent because of ill health or absence from the country. Would that absence of a senator during this session count against him in case he was absent last session, or should he be absent next session and cause him to forfeit his seat? The point is a nice one, it is a difficult constitutional one, and I should like to have it settled now rather than leave it until later on when, in the course of party warfare, party strife, proceedings might be taken on the question which would not be advisable. This is the proper time for the Minister of Justice to ascertain what the status of a Senator will be after this session. It is only fair to our colleagues who are forcibly absent to give them fair warning of what may happen. Some have missed last session, and if this session counts their seats become vacant the day we prorogue. I am prepared to give fair-play to everybody. If this were a regular session there would be no remedy whatever; the seat would at once become vacant. All I am asking is that the rights of Senators shall not be impaired by this extra call of a session.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—An emergency session.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—An emergency session, but all the same the fourth session of the twelfth Parliament. I do not expect the leader of the House to settle the matter at once. My opinion is that it will have to go much farther. My idea of the constitution from a legal point of view is that this session must count, and I go so far as to say that, to preserve the seat of Hon. Senator De Boucherville, the patriarch of the Senate, we must go to the Imperial Parliament. Supposing another session is called within fifty days, and these gentlemen do not attend, they are debarred. I would not like to have the seats of the Hon. Messrs. De Boucherville, Shehyn, Thompson and Domville, declared vacant. The hon. gentleman from Rothesay is a guest of the Emperor of Germany and cannot get here anyway. Or perhaps he is held as a hostage. The seats of five or six senators are in a similar condition. I simply call the attention of the leader of the Government to this fact, so that he may bring the matter before the Government and have it discussed, and see

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.