

#### MERCHANTABLE LIQUIDS IN CASKS.

HON. MR. SCOTT moved the second reading of the bill to compel persons delivering merchantable liquids in casks to mark on the casks the capacity thereof. He explained that this bill came from the Inland Revenue Department, and was connected with the management of that Department.

The bill was read a second time.

#### INSPECTION OF PENITENTIARIES.

HON. MR. SCOTT, in moving for the second reading, stated that this bill proposed to place the inspection of penitentiaries under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Justice, with the object of giving him more absolute control over the management of these institutions. It had been charged that there had been many abuses within the last few years, and it was proposed to alter the present system and do away altogether with the Boards of Directors or Penitentiary Inspectors.

HON. MR. TRUDEL gave notice that he intended to move an amendment to this bill at its next stage.

The bill was read a second time.

#### COPYRIGHTS BILL.

The House proceeded to take into consideration the amendments of the Copyrights bill made in the House of Commons, which were concurred in.

HON. MR. TRUDEL said there was one point in the bill which gave him special satisfaction, and that was that no work of an immoral or irreligious character could be made legal literary property. He was very glad to be able to compliment the Government on this provision of the bill.

#### THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

HON. MR. SCOTT said the Northern Railway Company had been for many years indebted to the Dominion Government, and efforts had been made from time to time to effect a settlement which would be satisfactory to the country, and not entirely injure the railway or its creditors. The Government claim amounted to £475,000, with interest made up. The late Administration proposed to take the sum of £23,000 and give a release, retaining some second and third class mortgage bonds, to the amount of £100,000 altogether, but this arrangement was

not carried out. The proposition now was that if, by April of next year—or the time might be extended by the Governor in Council—the Company paid £100,000 into the Receiver-General's Department, the Company would be released.

HON. MR. BENSON—What is the deduction from their debt?

HON. MR. SCOTT—The debt, with interest accumulated, is placed at about £475,000, for which we take £100,000 sterling. The £100,000 bonds of the Dominion remain in the same position; but with regard to the first lien, they would give it up for £100,000 sterling, cash.

HON. MR. McMASTER said this road had opened up a very important section of the country, and had contributed more to the revenue, perhaps, than any other road in the country. He thought, for this reason, it deserved assistance, and doubted whether any other railroad in the country had anything like the same claims to such a concession.

The bill was read a second time.

#### PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

HON. MR. ALLAN, on moving the second reading of this bill, explained that it was to incorporate a railway company and give them the same facilities for doing business, by allowing them to make certain deposits, as had been granted to other insurance companies. He proposed to refer the bill to a private committee, where it could be considered.

The bill was read a second time.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

HON. MR. SCOTT, on moving the second reading, explained that the bill was to place certain railways in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which already form part of the Intercolonial Railway, under the management and control of the Minister of Public Works.

The bill was read a second time.

#### CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL.

HON. MR. SCOTT, on moving the second reading of the bill amending the Superannuation Act, said its object was to enable the Government to give a certain amount of superannuation to certain officers who were not entitled