

READJUSTMENT OF SALARIES.

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST moved that the report of the Senators appointed last Session on the readjustment of salaries, be referred to the Committee on Contingent Accounts Carried.

DISCUSSION ON COMPANY BILLS.

HON. MR. ALLAN said that the Hon. Mr. Campbell had requested him in his absence, if the bill were printed, to undertake the second reading of the Canadian Gas Lighting Company Incorporation Bill. This bill was simply to incorporate certain parties as a Gas Lighting Company. The capital was rated at \$300,000, and the shares were \$1,000 each. The bill contained the usual provisions, and he proposed to refer it to the Committee on Private Bills.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD asked the hon. gentleman why this bill should be brought before the Dominion Parliament. It seemed to him one of those questions which ought not to be brought before them, but before a Local Legislature.

HON. MR. ALLAN said it would be remembered that this matter had been up before, that the bill had passed the Committee on Standing Orders, and no objection had then been made to it on that ground, though he believed a very strong desire had been expressed by the Chairman and other members of the Committee that they should endeavour to get some general rule to guide them in their dealings with similar bills.

HON. MR. PENNY—Am I to understand that this has been brought in in any other guise than as a private bill?

An hon. Member—Yes.

HON. MR. PENNY—Then it will save \$200. It is certainly as much a private bill as any of the others.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Oh, yes, it's a private bill.

HON. MR. PENNY did not wish to raise any objection at this stage, but it seemed to be an extraordinary thing that while they had gas companies from all parts of the Dominion who went to local legislatures to get their Acts passed, they should have one here seeking incorporation from the Dominion Parliament, on the ground

that their business was to be carried on in all of the Provinces.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I rise to a point of Order. The bill is not printed in both languages. It will be better then to waive the reading till next Monday.

HON. MR. MILLER remarked, with regard to the point raised by the hon. member at the head of the room, (Mr. Botsford) there could be no doubt at all that the parties applying for this bill might attain their object by local legislation. If the object of the petitioners was simply to carry on their business in one Province, that object would be easily attained by the passing in the Legislature of that Province of such a bill as that before the House, but if, on the other hand, it was intended to carry on their operations all over the Dominion, then it must be perceived that a great deal of trouble would be saved by a general act of incorporation. It was the opinion of the Committee and the House, he believed, that when a good object like the present was in view it was really the intention of the company, he understood, to carry out their operations all over the Dominion the petition should be granted.

HON. MR. PENNY—Every local company will soon profess the same intention.

HON. MR. MILLER said it had been discussed how that could be avoided. It had been suggested that it would be well to insert a clause in these bills which should provide that the powers granted by the bill would cease unless it was really the intention of the parties, and the result would soon declare, to carry on operations over the whole Dominion.

HON. MR. LETELLIER said the bill asked for rights not for one single Province but for the whole Dominion. They could not therefore go to a Local Legislature for such a power. It could only be granted by the Dominion Parliament.

HON. MR. DICKEY differed from the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, and to his mind the reason that he had given pointed to a different conclusion. The petition extended all over the Dominion by virtue of its powers. All that was wanted was an Act of