

siderable source of revenue. What I want is that the farmer may be protected in this matter in the same way as he was under the order in council.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Halifax)—In this case, the shale would not belong to the farmer. The minerals below the surface are not owned by the owner of the land in Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—That shale I speak of, which is all we know about at present, is owned by the Crown, and the Crown leases it on a royalty.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—The bounty does not belong to the farmer. Unless there be a provision made whereby the farmer can get his proportionate share of the bounty of each find; his crude oil is not as valuable as it was before, and he thereby loses a certain amount on each and every barrel of crude oil. I think there was a Bill passed two years ago placing the farmer in the same position in relation to the bounty as the producer, and if that be the case, and if it is so stated here, it would be covered—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The clause reads:

The said bounty to be paid to the producer of the petroleum or to such other person interested as the Governor in Council by regulation approves.

That covers it completely.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—That may embrace what I desire, but if it does not embrace it I want to call the attention of the minister to the fact in order that the farmer may have his just rights in the matter.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

#### SALARY OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT introduced Bill B 'An Act respecting the salary of the Superintendent of Insurance.'

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of the Bill. He said: This authorizes the payment to the Superintendent of Insurance of \$5,000 a year, putting him on a

Hon. Mr. WILSON.

par with the other deputies. I may say that the cost of the Insurance Department is paid by the various companies. They are assessed for the expenses of management in the Department of Finance of that branch. Practically, it does not come out of the public money.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Are these increases which are proposed in the salaries of the Superintendent of Insurance and of the Auditor General being made at the present time so as to have them take effect before the new Civil Service Act comes into operation?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, not before.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If they remain until after, if I understand the provisions of that Act, they cannot be dealt with, except by the commissioners.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The Act would not give it now to Mr. Fitzgerald, because he is not head of the department. It is a branch of the Finance Department.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Are those gentlemen not included in the Act as we have it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, the \$5,000 applies to the deputy heads of departments. The insurance branch of the Finance Department can scarcely be called a department of its own.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The Civil Service Act makes them equal to the deputy head, and declares that they occupy a position similar to that.

Hon. Mr. COX—It has not any bearing on this question; but may I ask if there are any other institutions which are assessed the same as the insurance companies?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am not aware. I understand the insurance companies are assessed for the running of that branch.

Hon. Mr. COX—The superintendence of banking is paid for by the government. Why not the superintendence of insurance also?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not know; the regulations were made some time ago.

Hon. Mr. COX—I think the other institutions should be made to pay the same as insurance companies, or the insurance companies should be released.