

by the Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the Minister of Railways and Canals, and shall be up to the general standard of the said National Transcontinental railway through the said province;

Provided, further, that His Excellency the Governor in Council shall be authorized to enter into a contract as aforesaid, for the operation of the said road in sections, when completed, and equipped as follows:

1 From Fredericton to Woodstock.
2. From Fredericton south a distance of fifty miles.

3 Each twenty-five miles thereafter, until the line be completed and equipped from Grand Falls to St. John.

Motion agreed to.

REGULATION OF FISHERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. BRODEUR. I move that on Tuesday next the House do go into Committee of the Whole to consider the following proposed resolution. His Excellency has been apprised of the subject matter of this resolution, and has given his assent to it.

Resolved, that it is expedient to provide that the Fisheries Act, chapter 45 of the Revised Statutes, 1906, be amended by enacting that in the province of British Columbia no one shall engage in the manufacture of oil or other commercial products from sea lions, hair seals, sharks or dogfish, nor operate a salmon cannery or salmon curing establishment, except under license from the minister: that the site of reduction works must be approved by the minister; that operations must proceed within one year from issue of the license for which annual fees shall be required; that the annual fee for a lobster fishing license be increased and based on the total number of pounds of canned lobsters: that the annual returns to the minister by the owner or manager of a lobster factory, through the inspector of fisheries of the district, shall furnish more details and be submitted not later than the 31st day of May, each year, and penalties for failure to make such returns shall be imposed; and that licenses must be obtained for maintaining lobster pounds, with an annual fee for the same.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. J. A. C. ETHIER (Two Mountains). (Translation). Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I rise to a question of privilege which is of concern to myself as a member of this House, but which is also, I believe, of concern to the House as a whole.

For over eight years I have had the honour of being chairman of the Committee on Private Bills. On the 23rd February instant, my action as chairman of that committee was made the occasion of some unfair, misleading and uncalled for criticisms. Reference was made to the stand taken by me at a meeting of the said committee,

on April 22, 1909, and remarks purporting to have been made by me were quoted and put in print. I wish to contradict these statements, and am anxious to apprise the House of their utter lack of foundation.

The statements to which I take exception were made in a manner which I might term incongruous and unworthy of the position occupied by the person who uttered them. I refer to Senator Kirchhoffer, chairman of the Divorce Committee of the Senate, who has thought fit to make the following public statement:

The Divorce Committee of the Senate has been often accused by a member of the House of Commons, named Ethier, who is, or used to be the chairman of the Private Bills Committee in that House, of granting divorces on evidence—

If I wished to give him a Roland for his Oliver, I might refer to the honourable senator as 'the man named Kirchhoffer,' but I prefer acting in a more courteous and proper way. Then he continues:

—on evidence you would not hang a cat upon. I think that is the favourite expression used ... Of course, the reporter is anxious to announce that Mr. Ethier, in the Commons, and the Hon. Mr. Cloran, in the Senate, make the above remarks—I mean those original remarks about the hanging of a cat on the evidence; but you are entirely mistaken, because you will find thousands of people believe anything they see in the paper, no matter how thick the head or slimy the tongue that gives utterance to it.

There can be no mistake as to whom he is aiming at, for a little further on, he says:

I shall allude to him as the member for Two Mountains.

And again:

Mr. Ethier made use of the very remark which he quoted. I have no doubt he originated it. I think he is deserving of a great deal of censure.

I humbly submit, Mr. Speaker, that this statement, as I have already stated, is false, uncalled for and without foundation. I never uttered such words neither in 1909 or any other time, and I may quote, for the information of the honourable senator, who may judge for himself, the report which the organ of his own party, the Ottawa 'Citizen,' published of what I said in reference to those relief Bills which are sent down to the Committee on Private Bills after going through the Senate. That paper published the following on April 23rd, 1909:

The matter in which the Senate has been granting divorces this session caused some very pointed remarks by Chairman Ethier in the Private Bills Committee of Commons yesterday morning. The Bill called was that divorcing Mildred G. Wendolyn Patterson, now of Toronto, from Charles Colebrooke Patterson, of Ottawa. 'We have 21 of these