

mentation that Arthur Ralph be appointed as sessional messenger. Would it be in order to adopt that recommendation of the committee?

HON. MR. MILLER—You might move that he be appointed, as recommended by the committee.

HON. MR. DICKEY—If it is a pressing matter it could be dealt with by the House in that way.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—I think it would be as well to leave the consideration of the report until it can be accepted or rejected as a whole. The suggestion of the leader of the Government is a correct one. Nobody will suffer if the report is not adopted to-day. It would be impossible for the chairman of the committee to name a day when the report can be taken in consideration and dealt with.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is obvious that the two items of the report are subject to very different considerations, and do not depend upon each other. My hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) misunderstood me if he supposed that I wish to postpone the whole report. We might dispose of the first item now and let the other stand over for future consideration.

HON. MR. READ moved that the first paragraph of the report be concurred in, as recommended by the committee.

HON. MR. MILLER—I think it is just as well that the motion should be a substantive one—that Arthur Ralph be appointed, as recommended by the committee. I do not think it would be well to cut up the report, and adopt a portion of it only.

THE SPEAKER—The motion will appear on the Journals that Arthur Ralph be appointed, as recommended by the Committee on Contingent Accounts.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. READ moved that the Order of the Day for the consideration of the report be discharged, and that it be taken into consideration this day fortnight.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. READ.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (14), "An Act to incorporate the Alberta Railway and Coal Company." (Mr. Ogilvie).

Bill (15), "An Act respecting the Kootenay and Athabasca Railway Company." (Mr. Reid).

The Senate adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, 28th February, 1889.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE DEFENCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INQUIRY.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.), inquired of the Government:

1st. How does the question of the defences of British Columbia stand at the present time between the Imperial and Dominion Governments?

2nd. Whether it is intended to begin the erection of batteries this year on the localities approved in the neighborhood of Esquimalt?

3rd. Whether cannon or armaments for the proposed batteries are being prepared under the direction of Imperial authority, and if so, when will such armament or cannon be shipped to the Pacific?

He said: I hope I will not be considered an alarmist in bringing this matter before the House. I think it is well, in view of current events in Europe, to consider questions of this character, lest they should be lost sight of. The necessity for some means of defence on the Pacific shores of the Dominion has been fully acknowledged by the Imperial and Dominion authorities; and with a view to being accurately informed where batteries ought to be placed a party of Royal Engineers, detailed from Halifax, has been surveying in the vicinity of Esquimalt and Victoria for the last three years. I believe that certain points have been determined upon and approved for the location of batteries. We hear from time to time of the increasing strength of the Russian arsenal at Vladovistock, opposite the shore of British Columbia;