

a brief, and I thought I would read it before the committee to-morrow. I did not think that the extension of time would even require the presence of those lawyers here, and I informed the solicitor, who was in town to-day, that it being only an extension of time, there was no occasion for him to stay. I might telegraph him and have him come back in time to tell the committee to-morrow why the Bill is asked for.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE—What is the object of suspending the rule in regard to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—It is because both these Bills originated in the Senate, and would have no chance of passing if the rule were not suspended, because notice has to be posted for several days, and the Banking and Commerce Committee are called for to-morrow and it would save time; otherwise these Bills would not have time to reach the Commons and be put through before the close of the session.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE—It would appear to me that the session is not likely to close so rapidly as that. At the rate we put Bills through here it would not take very long to reach the Commons, and the present session is not likely to suddenly collapse before this important Bill would have a chance to get through even the Commons.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—I gave due notice of suspension of rule yesterday, and it has been the custom of this House, when the session is drawing to a close and with a Bill originating in this House, for the rules to be suspended. There is only one meeting a week of the Banking Committee.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill read a second time.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved the second reading of Bill No. 59, An Act to Amend the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners Act. He said: The object of this amendment is to strike out from the existing Act a section which incorporates into it a provision in the Canada Shipping Act by which the Harbour Commissioners are practically prohibited from charging any substantial fee as toll, the object being that they should be in a position to impose such tolls as the harbour might need.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Like the harbour of Montreal?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—It would be rather interesting if the hon. gentleman would tell the House in committee how the Harbour Commission of Vancouver are getting along. Have they been doing the business in a satisfactory way to the country?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would assume so. I would assume that all the citizens of British Columbia do that.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—There is a great question in Vancouver about the dry dock that is built there. I understand that the company that is interested in it has been making application to the Government under the Dry Dock Act for certain consideration. I would like, for information, to know whether the dry dock has anything to do with this Harbour Commission, or whether it is entirely a separate organization.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I understand it is entirely separate. If my hon. friend wants any particular information about the dry dock, if he will give me notice I shall be very glad to bring it down. I understand there is no connection between the two.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—It is a floating dry dock.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Could the hon. gentleman tell me in what way this commission have been financing their expenditure on improvements? Since they have not been collecting proper dues, I wonder if they have a debt, and like other commissioners have applied to the Federal Government for help, or how are they meeting their charges?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I cannot say, except that the Harbour Commissioners, including those in Montreal, have absolute confidence in the Government assisting them from time to time.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—No, excuse me, on behalf of Montreal I may say that the commission has paid the interest on its bonds. The Vancouver Commission could not pay because they could not collect money—which shows the way in which the Bill has been drafted.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—You would be surprised at the resourcefulness of the people of Vancouver, though.