

POSTMASTERS' SALARIES BILL.

FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 31, an Act to amend The Civil Service Act, 1918, with respect to the salaries of certain Postmasters and Assistant Postmasters.—Hon. Mr. Blondin.

The Bill was read the first time.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 38, an Act to amend The Immigration Act.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, this Bill is a very short one. It provides for free transportation for immigration officers. It amends chapter 27 as follows:

Transportation companies shall furnish to immigration officers such free transportation as may be required in connection with their official duties, as directed by the minister.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Has not the Government power to arrange this now? What is the reason or necessity for this legislation?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I fancy it is for the purpose of giving the authority which is embodied in the section. Apparently the Government has not the necessary authority at the present time.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is it due to the provision that was inserted in the Railway Act last session?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I really cannot tell my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. BOYER: That is the reason which was given in the other House—that by the Railway Act all passes were suppressed. The transportation of these officers from one post to another costs the Government quite a large sum; so the Government has decided to authorize the railways to grant passes to those officers.

Hon. Mr. McSWEENEY: That is only for employees, is it not?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes; it is for the officials of the Immigration Department.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Hon. Mr. BOYER: I will have to join the Government.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is for those persons while acting officially.

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

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Bradbury in the Chair.

On section 1—free transportation of immigration officers:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Who has the authorizing of this transportation?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The minister.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The authority must all come from him?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, directed by him:

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: I think the wording of that clause is rather loose: "In connection with their duties." They might take their families with them. Would not "in pursuance of their duties" be better?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: There is nothing in this clause which will protect the public against considerable abuses occurring through the exercise of this power. In past legislation we have tried to minimize the granting of passes. Now we are entering upon the government ownership of railways, and we should be very careful not to pass any kind of Act which would permit of the carrying of passengers to the detriment of the treasury. Of course, it will be said in this case that the situation is as broad as it is long, inasmuch as the Government would have to pay the transportation expenses of its immigration officers anyway. I hope that in the administration of this legislation there will be no false pretext, but that it will be strictly limited to immigration officers engaged in public duties.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is so expressed.

Hon. Mr. BOYER: What about custom house officials? We meet them on the trains coming from New York when we arrive at the Canadian boundary. Do they pay their fare, or do they travel free?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The officers to whom my honourable friend refers would presumably be the immigration officers, who travel up and down on the trains,