

gentleman from Burlington notice then, that when he would violate the rule of this House in this way again I would call him to order.

HON. MR. VIDAL—It is a common practice in this House to introduce a motion by a few remarks. The hon. gentleman said he would introduce his motion for the adoption of the report by a few remarks.

THE SPEAKER—The chairman of the committee reported that the hon. gentleman have leave to withdraw his Bill, and I understood when the hon. gentleman from Burlington got up that he was about to move that the House concur in the report of the committee.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I would be very sorry indeed to do anything contrary to the rules of the House, or that would be unbecoming to the dignity of this House, or anything that is due to myself. The hon. gentleman I hope will be equally careful of his conduct in this House. I simply ask permission of the House to make a few remarks before withdrawing the Bill, and I also ask permission to read from a memorandum a short extract which is placed in my hand. If that is against the rules of the House, of course I must submit and sit down; but it appears to me that it is not contrary to our rules. It is in accordance with the common practice of the House to read extracts from a paper. This is a complicated subject, and I thought a few well considered remarks by a gentleman who has made a study of the question would convey to the House a much better idea of it, and in much more terse language, than I, or perhaps any other gentleman in this Chamber, could command, and I do not think there is anything out of the way in what I have done. I am doing it really for the sake of conveying information, not only to the House, but to myself as well. I think it is very desirable that the information concerning this important subject should be disseminated as much as possible. I would just like to finish the extract which I began to read when the hon. gentleman interrupted me. The Bill before the House defines the hour districts of Provinces, but there is a clause in the Bill which provides for any change in these districts which

the people may require. The memo. continues:—

“Thus we have throughout Canada to-day one reckoning of time, that determined at the observatory at Greenwich, in common use. It has been brought about by a silent revolution and has been effected purely in the interest of the whole community.”

Owing to the late period of the Session, and to give hon. gentlemen more time for the consideration of this important Bill with a view to its introduction next Session, I ask permission to withdraw it. I, therefore, move that the report of the Committee be concurred in.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—In pursuance of the recommendation of the report, I beg leave to withdraw the Bill.

The Bill was withdrawn.

RAILWAYS BILL.

THIRD READING.

HON. MR. DICKEY, from the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbors, reported Bill (Z) “An Act respecting Railways,” with certain amendments.

He said: The first amendment is to strike out the sub-section *s* of the first clause of the Bill and substitute another in its place, which is reported. The first clause gave unrestricted power to railway companies to acquire and sell and dispose of lands. This was thought to be too general, and put it in the power of railway Companies to speculate in lands, but the amended clause restricts this power entirely to lands acquired from the Government in the way of subsidies. The two clauses that are struck out, clauses 2 and 3, relate to the subject of fire guards upon which it was thought by the promoter of the Bill and the leader of the Government that it was desirable to get further information from countries in which laws on the subject existed before legislating on it here. These are the only amendments to the Bill, and I see no objection to them at all. On the contrary I think they remove all the objection that could have been taken to the Bill.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved that the report be concurred in.

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