

NICOLA KAMLOOPS AND SIMILKAMEEN COAL AND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. GALLIHER moved :

That the petition of the Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen Coal and Railway Company presented to-day praying for an Act to confirm their charter be read and received forthwith, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the 14th report of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. SPROULE. This is an exceptional time to bring up such a matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It can come up on 'motions' to-morrow.

Mr. GALLIHER. But the Committee on Standing Orders meets to-morrow and my reason for bringing the matter up now is that I wish it to be dealt with to-morrow and reported on. I spoke to Mr. Speaker with regard to it.

Mr. SPROULE. I have only to say that there should be some time when finality is reached with regard to these petitions. The rules are plain enough and are available for everyone who wishes to learn what they are. We met on the 12th of March, and it is now the 25th June. Yet these petitions are coming in as though this session were to go on perpetually. There should be some time when we reach finality with regard to these petitions.

Mr. GALLIHER. I may explain for the information of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) that some weeks ago I obtained the usual permission from the House to present the petition notwithstanding the fact that the time has elapsed. The delay in presenting it has arisen in this way—the Act had to be confirmed by the British Columbia government, because that company are asking in British Columbia for an extension of the time for the construction of their line, and there was delay until the Act was passed.

Mr. SPROULE. That would be an exceptional case.

Motion agreed to.

Motion to adjourn agreed to, and House adjourned at 1 a.m. Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, June 26, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Mr. R. F. SUTHERLAND (North Essex) presented the first report of the Select Stand-
Hon. Mr. FIELDING.

ing Committee on Privileges and Elections, as follows:—

Friday, June 26, 1903.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections beg leave to present the following their first report :

Your committee having considered the question referred to them by your honourable House, on the 25th instant, as to whether Mr. Schell, member for Glengarry, has infringed the law respecting the independence of parliament, beg to report as follows :

That the goods in question were sold by the firm of which Mr. Schell is a member, under a written order, to one W. D. Scott, who appeared from such order to be the agent of the Glasgow International Exhibition, 1901 ; that the goods were charged to the said Scott personally, and paid for by him ; that there was nothing to lead the vendors to believe, and they did not believe that they were dealing with the Dominion government, or any agent thereof.

From the evidence adduced, your committee find that the goods in question were sold by the firm of Macpherson & Schell to the said Scott personally, and there has, therefore, in the opinion of your committee, been no infringement of the law respecting the independence of parliament in this case.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) R. F. SUTHERLAND,

Chairman.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 211) respecting the Nicola Kamloops and Similkameen Coal and Railway Company.—Mr. Galliher.

Bill (No. 212) to incorporate the Alliance Bank of Canada.—Mr. Russell.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY FOR THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I beg to lay on the Table of the House a return to an address of the House of Commons, dated the 11th of May, for documents relating to the granting of provincial autonomy to the North-west Territories. I believe this is a preliminary report, and that there are other papers coming.

DEATH OF MR. FARQUHARSON.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is my sad duty to inform the House of the death of one of our colleagues in the person of Mr. Donald Farquharson, member for West Queen's, P.E.I., I believe that, though Mr. Farquharson was well known on this side of the House, he was not so well known on the other side, as he entered the House late during the present parliament. He was elected to parliament during the session of 1902. But, not being in robust health at that time, he never took in parliament the position his undoubted talents would have won for him had he been in good condition physically. His health did not improve, and to-day I have the sad intelligence that he has de-