

of a few days, the Government majority will be ten, exclusive of Mr. Speaker.

The division was on Mr. Foy's motion for the six months' hoist of the revenue bill, the second reading of which was moved by Hon. Mr. Harcourt. The Senate reform resolution on Thursday will probably bring on another vote.

A number of bills were introduced this afternoon and given first readings.

Revised Schedule of Taxes.

The following is the Provincial Treasurer's revised estimate of the increase in revenue:—

Natural gas companies, Pullman car companies and express companies (approximately)	\$25,000
Banks	41,000
Railways	33,455
Street railways	10,527
Telephone companies	5,906
Telegraph companies	3,125
Gas and electric lighting companies	6,779
Life insurance companies.....	44,554
Fire insurance companies	24,926
Loan companies	25,272
Licenses	91,000
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Total	\$314,906
Excluding approximate estimates in regard to first three companies	\$289,906

Principles Are Unchanged.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt moved the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain proposed resolutions to supplement the revenues of the Province of Ontario.

The motion was carried without dissent, Mr. J. R. Stratton being called to the chair.

In committee Hon. Mr. Harcourt said:—It will be noticed, Mr. Chairman, at first glance that the resolutions which are in the hands of hon. members vary somewhat from the statement I made when introducing the bill. It will also be noticed by a superficial glance at the revenue bill that any change which has been made does not affect, and cannot affect, the underlying principle of the bill which they support. All the changes, I repeat, concern only matters of detail. They do not concern in any sense the principle or fundamental idea of the bill. (Applause.) It is the common experience, Mr. Chairman, not only of this Legislature, but of all Legislatures and of all Parliaments everywhere, to make changes as bills pass through their successive stages before they become acts of Parliament. While this is true of ordinary bills, bills of minor importance, it is especially true of bills of

serious importance. Those who are acquainted with the progress of legislation know that the more important the bill the more liable it is to changes and variations or modifications or enlargements as it passes through its successive stages. (Applause.) If the Government is to be subjected to criticism for having made these changes I would ask hon. gentlemen to name any bill of considerable importance which had passed through any Legislature in modern times which has not been more changed, more modified, more varied, than this bill will be before it reaches its final stages. If the point is raised it can be fully met by detailed reference to new bills which have been put through the House of Commons at Ottawa or other Legislatures. (Applause.) It is more important to notice, not the fact that there have been changes, but the nature of the changes. I maintain that the changes have been necessary, and it is our duty, assisted by the Opposition, to make such changes as will make the bill more perfect and more workable in all its provisions. During the past fortnight it will have been noticed that deputations met the Government and discussed the principles of these resolutions with the Government. These deputations represented every interest affected by the provisions of these resolutions.

Continuing, Mr. Harcourt expressed the satisfaction of the Government that they had the advantage of obtaining the views of those whom the bill affected, and he assured the House that the Government is now in a position to say that it was very noticeable that not a single member of all the deputations who waited upon them had a word to say against the principles of the bill or against the scheme of the resolution. (Applause.) It was important also to observe that the press of the Province is well nigh unanimous in its support of the underlying principles of the scheme. Not a single member of a deputation had even said that the bill reaches a class or corporation which should not be reached. The press comments agreed that the bill reaches those who should be reached. He alluded to the difficulties surrounding the question of taxation as illustrated by the fact that no country has ever yet devised a perfect scheme of taxation. The intricacies and difficulties of the question being recognized, the Government would be satisfied if in the main the bill is found to be based upon fair and equitable principles. The Government had received many suggestions, but not one that any class now included should be dropped. He quoted the editorial opinion of The Toronto Telegram on March 2 that the Government need not apologize for its action in taxing corporate companies which enjoy immunities from taxation not granted them in Great Britain or the United States.