

the third time, but that it be referred back to a Committee of the Whole House, for the purpose of striking out the provision contained in the last five lines. The amendment of the hon. gentleman from Amherst was substantially that that proviso stand part of the Bill. That amendment carried. What was the position then? There was an amendment that that proviso stand part of the Bill. The proviso was in the original Bill. There was nothing in it which was inconsistent with the original Bill or the original motion. My own impression is that there was no necessity for replacing the Bill on the Order Paper for the third reading, because when that amendment passed the Bill was just in the same condition as when the motion for the third reading was made. I simply wish to express my opinion on the matter. I presume I am wrong, and that the decision of the Speaker is right.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I must say I shared with my hon. friend that impression, but on consulting the authorities, and our great living authority on the subject, we were assured that though in principle there might be no objection, still as a matter of procedure we should take the course that we have followed.

HON. MR. GIRARD—There is the amendment of which I gave notice yet to be disposed of. It was submitted to the Committee of the Whole House and decided upon. In view of the promise made by the leader of the House I consented to withdraw the motion, and my intention is not to proceed any further with it. With the leave of the House, I will withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

INDIAN ADVANCEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (132) "An Act to amend 'The Indian Advancement Act' Cap. 44 of the Revised Statutes." He said "This Bill is for two purposes. It is to enable the views of the Indians to be taken to some extent before a reserve is divided, and for the purpose of enabling them to make further rules as to their winter roads,

and matters of that description, respecting which they have already considerable powers, but not extending to winter roads. It is to give them the same power with regard to winter roads that we have in our own country here. There are two or three provisions also as to procedure at the meetings they hold in their reserves for the election of their local councils. The details will come up in Committee of the Whole.

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

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resumed, in Committee of the Whole, the consideration of Bill (65) "An Act further to amend the Criminal Law."

(In the Committee.)

HON. MR. ABBOTT said: The first clause was reserved for further consideration in consequence of a point made respecting it by my hon. friend from Halifax, which point I think was well taken. There seems to be no reason whatever for limiting the punishment of an offender to cases where he is arrested before his term of detention expires. Therefore, I move to strike out the words "before the expiration of his term of imprisonment."

The motion was agreed to, and the clause as amended was adopted.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—In the 6th clause there is a description of an offence which my hon. friend thought a little vague. I have examined the description of the cognate offence in the English law and our own statute. Both are much less perfect than this, and I must confess that I do not think there is really any necessity for altering it; because, of course, it will be for the magistrate who tries the offence to consider whether the act proved amounts to the offence contemplated by the clause. But I think the word "wilfully" put before the word "commits" would be an improvement to the clause, and would make it, by so much, better than any clause in any other Act that I have put my hands on. I move that this amendment be made.

The motion was agreed to, and the clause as amended was adopted.