

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMRBELL.—It was not stated that fraud had been proved, but that fraud had been asserted.

HON. MR. TRUDEL.—Hon. gentlemen will remember that this Bill was before the Private Bills Committee of the House of Commons. It was reported to the House of Commons without any objection, and passed, and everybody knows that when a Bill comes from the other House before our Committee it does not happen once in ten cases that the parties are here, especially when they have no reason to suspect that such charges as this are likely to be brought against them before our Committee. I am told that the party who was heard before this Committee was the promoter of the suit in question that is against one of the members of this Company, who, as far as I am told, having sold stock to that gentleman, is accused of having made a fraudulent sale, by representing the stock of the Company as being of greater value than it is. There is litigation between these two men, and, at the last moment, one of them comes here and constitutes himself a witness against the other. The promoter of the Bill, not expecting that such evidence was to be offered, was not prepared for it, but he said, "Let the Bill stand until to-morrow, and I will telegraph to Montreal and have abundant evidence to prove to the contrary." This application was refused. I know some of the parties. I know the party who is said to have given his evidence against this Bill, and I know some of the men whose names are in the Bill, and I do not hesitate to say, knowing the character of those men, that, if anybody were to go to Montreal and say that Mr. So-and-so has been confronted with Mr. So-and-So, and that, on the evidence of Mr. So-and-so, the other party has been guilty of fraud, the party who would say so would be laughed at. There is no comparison between the standing of at least one gentleman whose name is in this Bill and some others. I have nothing to say against the character of any of them. I believe them all to be respectable men, but I know how parties are apt