

HON. MR. VIDAL—The first clause of the Bill reads: "In so far as Parliament has power to define and control the same, the reckoning of time throughout Canada shall be regulated in accordance with the hour meridian system, commonly called standard time." The words "shall be regulated" seem to me to be anything but permissive. They are obligatory. The inconvenience of this system can be seen at once in banking matters. A man goes to pay his bill five minutes to three o'clock by the time of the place, and he finds the bank closed.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Nine-tenths of the banks of this country have adopted standard time; the courts have adopted it. Our courts here will be opened on Tuesday next by standard time, and our registry offices are governed by it. At Toronto they are governed by it, and as a matter of fact all banks and courts are governed by it in this Province.

HON. MR. MCKINDSEY—In our little town they have adopted it for years.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I have briefly mentioned what I think are the essential things to be considered, and before the House incommodes 99 people to suit the 100th hon. gentlemen had better consider it.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I think the Bill is—

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—The hon. gentleman has spoken.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—And the hon. gentlemen has read what little he has said in this House. I have spoken, of course, and if the hon. gentleman relies upon his point of order I shall sit down; but I shall take good care when he gets up to read his speech on a matter like this again, or on any other matter, he shall be called to order also.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I have not the slightest objection to the hon. gentleman taking that course, for I know how well he can express himself when he addresses the House.

HON. MR. POWER—If I thought that this Bill had the same effect as the hon. gentleman from Amherst says it has, I should certainly be very strongly opposed to its second reading. The hon. gentleman

thinks that clause 4 of this Bill makes it necessary that both systems should be used.

HON. MR. DICKEY—No; it says: may be used.

HON. MR. POWER—I think one of the great objections is the substitution of the 24-hour system for the 12-hour system. To gentlemen who have learned their arithmetic very thoroughly in early life the 24-hour system may be satisfactory, but to ordinary men, the great majority of the population, that system will be confusing for a long time. When we think of the vast number of people who are not in the habit of making mental calculations it will be seen that it is a great deal better to divide the 24 hours into two series. Another objection to this measure which occurs to me, and which has not been referred to by any hon. gentleman who has spoken, is one which applies more particularly to the Maritime Provinces. As I understand it, nautical almanacs, and almanacs generally which deal with the ebb and flow of the tides, are calculated on solar time by the longitude of the place for which the almanac is constructed, and I think that the introduction of this system will simply create confusion in the navigation round the shores of the lower Provinces. It is perfectly true with regard to railways, and particularly since the extension of the railway system to the Pacific coast, that it is more convenient for the railways to use standard time. As to the remainder of the population, the advantage is with the old system—solar time—and I do not see that there is any necessity for the Bill. As it is now, the railways use standard time, and I do not think that this House is satisfied that the use of this system should be rendered compulsory on the other portions of the population. A great change of this sort is not generally effected in a single Session, and having given his notice and brought his Bill before Parliament it will be discussed and considered by the public and the press, and the hon. gentleman should be satisfied, as the House will be then in a better position to deal with it. If it meets with general approval next Session we should pass it; but I do not think we should be called upon now to pass so important a measure without an opportunity of discussing it here and having it considered outside.