

Of bills for amending the law, there are but few: the Commons so amended the Anti-Combines Act as to make it effective, but the Senate has so modified the amendment as to make the Act a chip in porridge;—for would not a combine causing “detriment to the public” be a conspiracy to commit a crime and punishable without the Act?—

At last, ten years after the English Act, 43 & 44 Vict., c. 9. for the like purpose, we have a bill for meeting the difficulty arising out of the rapidity of travel by railroad, introduced by Mr. Tupper, the Minister of Marine. It is understood that the bill is not intended to pass in the present session, and that it is printed for the consideration of members and the public; and therefore, it is a proper subject for you and your readers to deal with, which I hope you and they will do. The preamble refers to the international conference at Washington in 1884, which recommended the meridian of Greenwich as the prime meridian common to all nations (at which Canada was ably represented by Mr. Sandford Fleming, and to which all English-speaking peoples are indebted for its decision) and then mentions what is called the “Hour Zone System” of reckoning time, as having been adopted with great advantage to the public by railway companies in America and many other countries, including Canada, and the doubts that its adoption has occasioned as to its legal effect in the latter: for though there is no doubt that the legal civil time in the Dominion is mean solar time as heretofore, and no power but the legislature could make it otherwise, many people believe the time adopted by the railway companies, and which they call *standard time*, has been substituted for it. The enacting clauses of the bill do not sanction this belief, or adopt the fifteen degree hour zone system, as defined in the original scheme of the railway companies, in the bill introduced by Mr. Evarts in the United States Senate, and more especially in the amusing and instructive article by Mr. Fleming in the *American Engineering Magazine* for May, 1891,