

effect will be this : although a patent may run four years the invention can only be brought in during the first year of the four ; which is just the thing we do not want. We desire to make the law consistent in itself, and to provide that if the Commissioner thinks proper to extend the patent two, three or four years, as the case may be, the patentee may have the privilege of bringing in his invention into this country during that length of time. The application must be made within three months prior to the expiration of the twelve months. The object of this Bill is to make it consistent with the law relating to the time for which patents may run. I saw the gentleman at the head of the department, and he considered it important that the Bill should pass, but if two years was considered too long and one year would meet the wishes of the House, it might pass in that shape.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The legislation of 1875 is clearly in the wrong direction. There has always been a pressure on the Department by persons applying for patents to have the time extended for the importation of inventions and their manufacture in the country. My own view is this : you simply encourage the speculator. A great many of the inventions in the United States are patented in this country by speculators, who hold them for higher prices, and not to manufacture or sell them. The longer you extend the time the more you foster that spirit of speculation which ought not to prevail. If the patentee is not prepared within twelve months either to manufacture the article patented in Canada, or to supply the trade he should not continue to have the exclusive right to it.

HON. MR. AIKINS—I quite agree with my hon. friend.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It may be a small invention, in itself comparatively insignificant, but applied to machinery it may be a matter of great importance and yet because this middle man holds it at a high price it cannot be utilized by the public. He is a dog in the manger ; he will not import it and he will not manufacture it. Now, I think that sort of thing ought not to be favored by legislation. I think one year is long enough for a

patentee either to import or manufacture the article in the country in order that people who desire to use the invention may have an opportunity for obtaining it. Of course the proposition to reduce the period from three to two years is a decided improvement. I hope that at some future period when this question of patents is up again, the time will be still further reduced. I feel that giving such latitude is simply favoring speculators and not inventors. It very rarely happens that an inventor comes into Canada. He generally sells to somebody in Canada, or to some American speculator who gets the patent and holds it dangling before the public in order to obtain a higher price for it.

HON. MR. AIKINS I move that the Bill be not now read the third time ; but that it be amended by striking out "two years" and inserting "one year" in the third clause.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill as amended was read the third time and passed.

CHIGNECTO MARINE TRANSPORTATION RAILWAY SUBSIDY BILL.

THIRD READING.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the third reading of Bill (167), "An Act to provide for the granting of a subsidy to the Chignecto Marine Transport Railway Company (limited)."

HON. MR. POWER—When this Bill was read the second time I intimated to the leader of the Government in this House that I proposed to make some remarks on it, and the hon. gentleman was kind enough to say that these remarks could be made at the third reading as well as at the second. I wish to call the attention of the House to the somewhat unusual character of this measure. The beginning of the preamble says :—

"In consideration of the great advantages which would accrue to the Maritime Provinces and the intercolonial trade of Canada generally, from the construction of a Ship Railway across the Isthmus of Chignecto from Tignish, on La Baie Verte, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to a point at the mouth of