

MEAFORD HARBOUR BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (No. 158) An Act respecting Meaford Harbour. He said: It appears that by an Act passed before confederation, this harbour was placed under the control of the government, strange to say, and now it is necessary to make some changes as it is going to be an important harbour for one of the Pacific lines. The object of the Bill is to define the harbour by certain boundaries, and to make certain by-laws of the municipal council legal, in order that the harbour may be put on a proper basis.

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

SUSHWAP AND THOMPSON RIVERS
BOOM COMPANY'S BILL.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN moved concurrence in the report of the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours, on Bill (No. 49) An Act to incorporate the Sushwap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company.

Mr. BOSTOCK—I have given notice of a motion to refer this report back to the committee. There are several grounds on which I think this should be done. The reasons given by the committee for arriving at their conclusion, show that they do not fully grasp the situation in that part of the country. I obtained information to-day which I can lay before the committee, that I think will alter the decision they have reached. I do not propose to enter into details now, because I think they can be much better discussed before the committee. I submit that this Bill was not thoroughly discussed in the committee, and that it was thrown out because the clauses which the Bill originally contained, when it was first introduced, declaring it to be a work for the general advantage of Canada, was not in it when it came here. The situation out there is a peculiar one, inasmuch as this company's operations will be in the Dominion Railway belt, and the whole question is one that has never been threshed out properly. There is also an opinion that

Hon. Mr. ELLIS.

the promoters of this company want to obtain a monopoly in that river. I may say that the people interested in getting this charter are sound business men. They are all lumbermen who have invested a large sum of money in timber limits and a saw-mill in that country, and they ask to be allowed to carry on their legitimate business which they cannot do unless these privileges are granted. They are prepared to make arrangements with any other lumbermen who may come on that river later on and give them all the rights they are entitled to themselves. They do not ask for any monopoly. I move that the report be not now concurred in, but that the said Bill be referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—I can only say that, in my judgment, the Bill was thoroughly discussed in committee. The hon. gentleman has not mentioned anything that was not brought before the committee. The Bill was under consideration for hours, and everything within the reach of imagination and also within the reach of the evidence was before the committee and thoroughly canvassed. While I do not desire to influence the judgment of hon. gentlemen particularly, the hon. gentleman in his statement to the House, has mentioned nothing that was not stated to the committee yesterday. I feel bound to make this statement, not that I have any strong feeling on the subject, but unless there is some better reason for sending it back to the committee, the labour will be in vain.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I listened with some attention to the hon. member from British Columbia, and it appears to me that as we have considerable time on our hands, if any hon. gentleman is as much interested in a Bill as the hon. gentleman from Yale is in this Bill, and asks to have it referred back to the committee promising to submit further information, there should be no hesitation in complying with his request.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not see that any possible good can arise in sending it back to the committee, unless the hon. gentleman is prepared to convince the committee that the decision at which they arrived as to the right of this parlia-