

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not really see that we can do anything. I was reading a rule of the penitentiary here. They would not receive a man and he is not considered their prisoner until the warden gives a receipt for him. It is the duty of the jail surgeon to make an examination, and this is an extra precaution in case the jail surgeon has neglected his duty.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 6,

6. The Kingston penitentiary, for the province of Ontario,—the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, for the province of Quebec,—the Dorchester penitentiary, for the province of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island,—the Manitoba penitentiary, for the province of Manitoba and all that part of the territories of Canada situate east of the one hundred and second west meridian,—the British Columbia penitentiary, for the province of British Columbia, and the Alberta penitentiary, for the province of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and for all that part of the territories of Canada, except the Yukon Territory, situate west of the one hundred and second west meridian, shall each be maintained as a prison for the confinement and reformation of persons lawfully convicted of crime before the courts of criminal jurisdiction of the province, territory or district for which it is the penitentiary, and sentenced to confinement for life, or for any term not less than two years.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would suggest that we pass this clause, and then my hon. friend can make inquiry into the matter and when we come to the third reading, if it is necessary to make the amendment it can be done.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I have consulted a map with regard to this matter, and I think that clause 6 is all right. It takes in a portion of Saskatchewan west of the 102nd west meridian, but it is easier to reach the Manitoba penitentiary from there than it would be the Saskatchewan penitentiary.

The clause was adopted.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

INTERPRETATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (171) an Act to amend the Interpretation Act.

(In the committee.)

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The commission on revising the laws had substantially made the interpretation as it is here, but it was thought better that it should be enacted by parliament rather than that the commissioners should take upon themselves to include the clauses in the Interpretation Act. Clauses 1 and 2, and 5 and 6 are taken bodily from the English Interpretation Act. The Bill was suggested by the Deputy Minister of Justice who has had charge of the revision of the statutes, and it is at his instance that these changes are made.

Hon. Mr. JONES, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment, and it was read a third time and passed.

INDIAN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The order of the day being called, Committee of the Whole on Bill (194) an Act to amend the Indian Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said: As I explained on a former stage of this Bill, it is changing the amount that is payable directly to a band by the Crown, for instance for taking any portion of the land of a band, and disposing of it for the benefit of the band. Instead of funding the whole amount, it is proposed to give to the Indians for the benefit of improvements on the reserves a portion equal to one-half. Probably the House would understand it better if I just read the reasons given by the head of the Indian Department.

The amendment to the Indian Act whereby it is intended to increase the amount from ten to fifty per cent in cash that may be paid to the Indians at or about the time of the surrender of their lands to the Crown to be disposed of for their benefit has been submitted to and returned from the Justice Department and is now in form for presentation to the House.

There are in the Dominion of Canada between 1,400 and 1,500 reserves, containing in round numbers 5,000,000 of acres of land. These reserves are to be found in every province of the Dominion and consist in many, if not the majority, of cases of well selected and very valuable land.

The number of the reserves, especially those of British Columbia and, to some