

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of (Bill 7) "An Act further to amend the Dominion Elections Act, Cap. 8, of the Revised Statutes of Canada." He said: I hope my hon. friend from Halifax will deal tenderly with me now, because I am about to propose a similar thing to that which he complained of a few minutes ago. I am about to ask the House to pass a Bill which is intended to remedy a difficulty which has arisen under the last Dominion Elections Act, and which was caused by the fact that by that Act something was undone, and we have got to do it again, because we find it necessary and expedient, and in the public interest to do it, and we are not afraid or ashamed to come before the House and say we think it better to go back to what we had before, after giving both systems a fair trial. It is with reference to the nominations in the district of Gaspé. By the original Act the nominations for the district of Gaspé, as well as for the district of Algoma, were not necessarily fixed for the same day as the nominations in other parts of the Provinces. It was thought that in Gaspé this exception might be done away with—that there might be time enough in Gaspé, notwithstanding the extent of the county, to have the nomination on the same day as the nominations in the rest of the Dominion; but unfortunately it has been found that it is not practicable. The county is too large to be able to give the requisite notice for the polling, and therefore this Bill is introduced to bring us back to the position we occupied before the last Act, to have the nominations in Gaspé fixed for a special date.

HON. MR. McINNES (B. C.)—Does not the same reason apply to the districts of Cariboo and Yale, in British Columbia.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I could not tell my hon. friend.

HON. MR. McINNES (B. C.)—Those districts are certainly as large as Gaspé, and it is as difficult to have notices distributed there in time.

HON. MR. POWER—I think they were excepted also.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend must know that the Magdalen Islands are included in the Gaspé district.

HON. MR. MILLER—It is peculiarly a Bill for the House of Commons to deal with.

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

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (43) "An Act to amend the Act 52 Vic., Cap. 4, intituled: 'An Act to authorize the granting of Subsidies in Land to certain Railway Companies.'"

(In the Committee).

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I promised an explanation with regard to this Bill when it was read the second time, which explanation I am now in a position to give. It appears that these two companies are authorised to construct a railway from the Canadian Pacific Railway to a point south of it, each having a portion of the railway to construct. The North-Western Coal and Navigation Company (Limited) has already constructed the first portion, and the Alberta Railway and Coal Company is authorised to construct the second portion. They are both under the control of the same parties, practically, and have in fact power to amalgamate afterwards; but in the meantime, the North-Western Coal and Navigation Company, to which this land was given, has no power to construct the piece of railway in aid of which the grant was made, while the Alberta Railway and Coal Company was incorporated for the purpose of making that section, and it was to that company the subsidy was promised. Now, the error, if it was an error, which occurred in the office of the Department of the Interior, or in the office of the draughtsman who drew the Bill—it is not known exactly how it occurred—was not rectified, because Sir Alexander Galt, who is the main promoter of the scheme, and through whose energy the first portion of the railway has already been constructed, left Canada immediately upon the passing of the Bill, and before the subsidy which had been promised to this railway had been