

Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where time is regulated by one hour in those Provinces and by another hour in the Province of Quebec.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—In introducing the Bill, I mentioned that it was to be amended.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I am very sorry that the hon. gentleman has moved in it until it was perfected. No doubt the introduction of so novel a principle shocks most minds, and one can quite recognize that they would be more shocked with the Bill in the shape it now is, because a particular hour is made to cover New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. It cannot be possible; that area extends over at least two hours, because the Province of Ontario runs considerably over in its own length the 15 degrees. Between Montreal and Port Arthur there is a change in the hour, and then there are some three or four hundred miles before you reach Manitoba, so that the Bill in its present shape would never do. You must conform to the 15 degrees.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—That is the intention.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Where you find that there is a river that will form a boundary it is a much easier one to adopt than an arbitrary line running through the woods. I presume it is intended to be a permissive Bill—that while it makes standard time legal it does not take from any one the right to use the solar time that used to guide our fathers.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I think there is much more importance to be attached to the discussion of this Bill than has come out yet, when we remember the number of persons that will be affected by it. While I entirely and cordially approve of this system of notation of time on railways, and I think to Mr. Sanford Fleming is due an immense amount of credit for obtaining its introduction into this country, I do not think that any of the reasons which apply to its adaptation to railways apply to its use in the community generally. It so happens that where I come from, midway between two meridians, I know the difficulties that occur from the attempt to introduce standard time. The experiment has been tried at the city

of Detroit, a large and influential city, where there is a great deal of trade, and where a great many railways centre, and they have been obliged to go back to the system of adopting the time of the place for city time.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I do not think they ever adopted standard time there at all.

HON. MR. VIDAL—The railway companies adopted it, and in the town of Huron opposite they tried it also, and found it so inconvenient that they have gone back to solar time. One can easily see how inconvenient it is on a cold winter morning, when a man must turn out half an hour earlier; but that is not so bad as making it noon at 11:30 in the morning. That interferes with the domestic arrangements of every family, and applies to the whole community. I undertake to say that not 1 per cent. of the population is interested in having standard time adopted. Ninety-nine people out of one hundred would be far better accommodated and served by retaining the true time of the place than by standard time, and when we come to think of the number of people that would be incommoded by the change there is no reason why it should be made. If we put this statute on our books, Ontario must immediately go to work and change her statutes, and every registry office must change—every thing must be changed in order to conform to this new system. It would produce a great deal of inconvenience, and I cannot myself see a single advantage to be gained by it, except by persons travelling, and very soon everybody learns the difference between the city time and the railway time.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—The consequence is, they would soon adopt the railway time entirely.

HON. MR. VIDAL—Whenever it is found to be a practical inconvenience it will be adopted. There is no necessity for forcing the thing on the people until a desire is shown for it. The hon. gentleman from Ottawa seems to think it is a permissive Bill.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It is only on the condition that it is permissive that it could be adopted.