

that it would have been safer for him to pay a little more attention to my statements. The Minister of Justice acknowledging the guilt of his subordinate officer, I feel that it is my duty to say no more for the present on this question of the causes of the difficulties this penitentiary has been laboring under, so that I will wait to see how the Minister will deal with the guilty Inspector. As the hon. gentleman from British Columbia has said, the House is more interested in this matter than I am, because I have only my own reputation to protect. I am 67 years of age. I have always lived in this country and I am so well known that I cannot be injured by such villainous attacks; but the House has to show that it resents this disgraceful breach of privilege. It cannot tolerate such an outrage. It is for this House to take what steps may be deemed proper to protect its own dignity: for my part I will most probably wait until next session to give an answer to many other attacks made upon me by the Inspector, and which are found in the blue books. I will only add that in the blue books I am referring to, I will be able to prove that there are important statements which are not according to facts.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Did I misunderstand my hon. friend when I understood him to say that the Minister of Justice knew of this note?

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I said to the contrary.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—With reference to the note itself, I can only say that I entirely concur in the views taken by the hon. gentleman who brought this matter before the House, that this is a very grave and serious offence against the dignity and honor of this House. If I had been informed that he was going to bring it before the Senate I would be prepared to say what steps I should take under the circumstances. I have only heard of it this moment, and therefore I would ask my hon. friend to let it stand in order to see what steps I shall and ought to take in order to vindicate the honor and dignity of this House. In the meantime I shall bring the matter

under the notice of the Minister of Justice. The offence is all the more grave, because it is one that has been perpetrated by an officer of the Government.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I said when I read the note that I did not like to bring it before the notice of the House because it was a matter for which the Minister of Justice was responsible, and knowing what I do of him I am content to leave it in his hands

The subject then dropped.

SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS BILL.

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (76) "An Act to amend the Act respecting Sick and Distressed Mariners."

He said: This is a very short Bill, introduced for the purpose of correcting an error in the Revised Statutes. If I had known more about the Bill when it was first introduced I dare say we should not have had the discussion which has already occurred upon it. There is a small fund created by a tonnage duty on vessels for the purpose of assisting in the care and treatment of sick and distressed mariners coming into ports in Canada. By an Act passed in the 45th year of Her Majesty's reign it was provided that no vessel, whether British or foreign, employed exclusively in fishing or in fishing voyages, should be subject to this tonnage fund—in other words that no fishermen should be allowed the benefit of this fund. By 46 Victoria, passed two years afterwards, that law was amended, and the fishermen were brought under the provision of the Act and allowed the benefit of the fund. That was the state of the law when the Revised Statutes were passed. It came into force in March last. In the Revised Statutes there was a provision which left the matter so open that not only our own fishermen but foreign fishermen could avail themselves of this fund, which was not the provision of the Act 47 Vic., and which was not intended and was never the law here until the Revised Statutes