

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—That was the answer given as to the two. He would draw the Hon. Minister's attention to the second query again, and if any other information could be had he would state it to the House.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL introduced a bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Act respecting Offences against the Person."

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON moved the adoption of the fourth report of the Joint Committee on Printing. He explained that the report recommended the printing of certain documents while rejecting the claim of others. Carried.

CENTRAL PRISON—ONTARIO.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Central Prison for the Province of Ontario. He stated that it had been prepared by the Attorney General of that Province, and was designed to carry out an arrangement made by the Government of that Province with regard to the Central Prison. It had been thought by that gentleman and the Attorney General for the Dominion that it was necessary, in order completely to carry out the views and wishes of the Provincial Government, that the powers sought for by this bill should be given by Parliament.

Motion carried.

ALIENS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the bill respecting aliens in British Columbia and Manitoba. He said this bill was suggested to the Government of the Dominion by the Government of British Columbia. It seems that in that Province they have an Act respecting aliens and naturalization, permitting of naturalization by a year's residence. The period in the rest of the Dominion is three years. They desire in British Columbia the extension of the Dominion law to that Province, but not that any persons now living there should be prevented acquiring the rights of naturalization and citizenship upon one year's residence. The Bill would continue that privilege to present residents, but those going thither afterwards will fall under the ordinary laws of the Dominion on this subject. It would be the same thing as respects Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL said he would certainly offer no objection. He would direct attention to one feature of the present law

deserving of notice. Naturalization papers could only be taken out during the sessions of the Supreme Court. He would like to know the Canadian facilities, whether a person could not take the oath of allegiance at any time before some easily accessible Court or Magistrate, having fulfilled the conditions of residence. He had always looked upon the British Columbia law as cumbersome, as regards the tribunal appointed for the oath. Men lived faster there than in Canada, one year being a longer period than three in the Eastern Provinces. (Laughter.) He objected to the present facilities of British Columbia as inadequate, costly and productive of great inconvenience in the case of settlers living at magnificent distances from the court.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL explained the law of the Eastern part of the Dominion requiring the oath to be taken before a Recorder, a Justice of the Peace, or in one of the inferior courts, with a view to the preservation of evidence of the fact for use in future in certain cases, including the transmission of property. If evidence were not kept it might be difficult to ascertain subsequently whether the oath had been taken, and the person had become a British subject. The action here taken by the Court of Quarter Sessions, or the Circuit Court, it was proposed to require of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. He did not know whether such an improvement as the hon. gentleman might think advisable could be made. He (Mr. Campbell) believed there was no Court of Quarter Sessions in that Province.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL said there were no County Courts.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said if any assistance could be rendered by the hon. gentleman in devising an improvement of this means, he should be most happy to cooperate with him. The bill required a person to appear before the Supreme Court, where it should be made of record that he had become a British subject.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL said he would recommend the use of other tribunals than the Supreme Court, which met only twice a year, and would require long and difficult journeys on the part of many seeking naturalization papers. He would be glad to give all facilities to the extension of the aegis of British citizenship over willing individuals.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY agreed with the hon. Senator from British Columbia, that instead of creating any obstacles to the assumption of British allegiance by newcomers, it should be made as easy as possible. He could not understand why in a