

On the preamble,

HON. MR. ABBOTT—At the suggestion of my hon. friend from Halifax, I move an amendment to the preamble to insert after the word "Act" in the 7th line the words "49 Vic. cap. 38."

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think that meets the case; because the Revised Statutes are published under the authority of the Act 49, Vic. cap. 38. If you say section 16 of Cap. 38 of the Revised Statutes it would be better.

HON. MR. MILLER—I think the title of the Act is very brief and comprehensive, and I do not believe that anyone desiring to find that chapter in the Revised Statutes would have any better index than the title given here "An Act Respecting Government Railways."

HON. MR. POWER—The reason I gave for suggesting the amendment was that those Statutes are not read exclusively by lawyers, and by gentlemen who are as familiar with the law as the hon. gentleman from Richmond and the Leader of the House. The ordinary business-man picks up this Act and finds it is an Act to amend the Government Railways Act. Then the first question which suggests itself to him, is, where shall I find the Government Railways Act, and unless he has a learned gentleman like the hon. member from Richmond to tell him, he does not know where to find it.

HON. MR. MILLER—Any child of 10 years of age would go to the Index of the Statutes at once.

HON. MR. POWER—A child of 10 years of age might not have the Revised Statutes at his elbow; but he will know where to look if he finds in the preamble that it is Cap. 38 of the Revised Statutes. My proposition is to mention Section 16 of the Act respecting Government Railways Cap. 38 of 49 Vic.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I accept the hon. gentleman's view of it.

HON. MR. GIRARD—I would call the attention of the leader of the Government to the French translation of the second clause of the Bill. I would ask if the expression in the French is the proper translation of the English phrase, "hurdle gate"—*Barriere de course*—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is not a proper translation.

HON. MR. GIRARD—Then if there cannot be a better translation of the words given in the French it would be better to retain the English words, "hurdle gate."

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The hon. gentleman is quite right; I will see that a better translation is made.

HON. MR. MILLER—I regret that the leader of the Government has accepted the amendment of the hon. gentleman from Halifax. I think the addition is redundant. This Act is to be known as an amendment to the Government Railways Act, and why it should be necessary to make any addition to the words which are prescribed by the Statute as the title to the Act I cannot see.

HON. MR. POWER—What harm can it do?

HON. MR. MILLER—If there is no better argument in favor of the amendment than to ask what harm will it do, I do not think it will amount to a great deal in the estimation of the House. We might put in several words which perhaps would do no harm, but they would destroy the symmetry of the clause and its conciseness of expression as will be the effect of this amendment. I never was in favor myself of getting in little words here and there in a bill, and this is a precedent that may have to be followed in other legislation.

HON. MR. GOWAN—I rather agree with my hon. friend from Halifax in the suggestion he has made. I think it is absolutely necessary to insert the chapter to which the amendment relates. If you refer to it as chapter so and so in the Revised Statutes