

if the British North America Act gave the power in question, and he denied that it applied to anything except Canadian copyright works—it could not be retrospective.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said the very preamble of the Bill stated the reasons why the Government believed Canada could legislate directly on such a question. He knew the Act referred to was in existence, but it was contended that since it was passed the British Parliament had also passed the British North America Act, giving the Dominion power to legislate with respect to copyrights; and it was a well understood principle that when the Legislature expressed opinions at different times, the latest expression was to rule. The Union Act was broad, and applied to copyrights generally, and could not be limited as the hon. gentleman argued. As respects the Treaty with France, it could have no possible connection whatever with the matter before the House. That Treaty referred to French copyrights published in Great Britain; and he was surprised that the hon. gentleman should bring it up. Canada had representative institutions, and it was claimed by the member for the Wellington Division, and others that we had under these institutions the right to deal with such a question, and Imperial legislation could not affect us with respect to copyrights any more than it could in the case of patents. Under any circumstances, no harm could arise from the passing of the bill; on the contrary beneficial results must accrue for it would direct the attention of the British Government to the subject.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU again urged his view of the case.

Hon. Mr. RYAN expressed his astonishment that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bureau) should oppose a measure which, should it come into operation, would be a great benefit to a very important branch of industry, especially in the city of Montreal. He showed that the bill had no reference whatever to the Treaty quoted by the hon. gentleman, and then went on to say that the Act of 1849 was passed with the view of benefiting the people of Canada; for at that time the publishing interest here was not able to compete with the same interest across the frontier in the production of cheap literature. The state of things, however, was now very different; and it was felt that the present system was very injurious to the publishers and printers of Canada. As an illustration of the energy with which this branch of industry is now prosecuted he mentioned Mr. Lovell of Montreal employs

some 500 persons, many of them females. That gentleman had recently been offered very strong inducements if he would remove his entire establishment to the United States. He expressed himself emphatically in favor of the bill before the House, and contended that it was as just in principle, and would operate most beneficially. The measure was in the interest of the British author as well as the Canadian publisher. Sir C. Trevelyan, backed by the opinions of leading English authors, warmly approved of the policy of Canada in this particular. He was satisfied with the opinion given on the subject by eminent legal minds in this country, and believed that the result of the reference to England would be satisfactory. He trusted sincerely that every gentleman in the House would do all in his power to promote the interests of a very important branch of industry which was now laboring under great disadvantage.

An amendment was added at the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Ryan, making the excise duty *not to exceed* 12½ per cent on the wholesale value.

The Committee rose and the amendment was adopted by the House. The bill was then read a third time and sent to the House of Commons—the money clauses being first omitted.

SECOND READINGS.

Bills to incorporate Canada Agricultural Insurance Company, Levis and Sorel Boards of Trade, was read a second time.

After reception of several bills from the House of Commons,

The House adjourned.

THURSDAY, June 6, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

PILOTS.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS presented to the House a Return to an Address to His Excellency the Governor General dated May 1872, praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before this House, a copy of any correspondence which has taken place between the Department of the Marine and Fisheries and the Imperial Board of Trade in London, relative to the relaxation of the Rules and Regulations relating to the granting of masters' certificates of competency to Pilots on the Lower St. Lawrence.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Mr. DICKSON from the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, reported favorably on "an Act to amend