

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The amendment proposed by the hon. member from Amherst does not go as far as I desired it to extend. It only refers to rights acquired by user of the patent or by assignment.

HON. MR. DICKEY—Or otherwise.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—"Or otherwise" is very indefinite. What is to be done with the people who have made preparations to manufacture this patent, but have not exactly commenced to manufacture? I think such cases should be provided for, if we are going to specify the rights of those who are to be protected. The amendment should protect everybody who has invested capital with a view to manufacturing the patented article.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I think it will be necessary to give notice of that amendment. We cannot take it in a hap-hazard way like this. I object, as a member of the House, to make the amendment without notice.

HON. MR. MACINNES—In order to meet the objection of the hon. gentleman, I move that the Bill be read a third time on Friday next.

HON. MR. POWER—The amendment will not effect anything. It will not do any particular harm, however. What has happened in the case of this Bill shows how fine a thing it is to have a good reputation. The hon. gentleman from Amherst has a long established reputation for skill and good judgment in amending Bills, and this House took it for granted that the amendment must be right, without carefully looking into it, and the House of Commons has got into the way of accepting our amendments as a matter of course, because they are always important, and they accepted that amendment without investigation.

The motion was agreed to.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SENATE.

HON. MR. POIRIER moved :

That an humble Address be presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty; praying for the amendment of the British North America Act, so that Senators shall, henceforward, as their seats become vacant, be appointed by Provincial Legislatures, the Crown to retain the right to the appointment of three or six additional Senators, as now exists under the Constitution.

He said : At the outset of my remarks, I beg leave to state the fault I find with our Canadian Senate is not to its composition, as it now exists, but to its constitution. There is no ground for serious criticism of the hon. gentlemen who now compose the Senate. The choice, I believe, on the whole is an intelligent and commendable one. Since the necessity of a property qualification has been abolished in the other House, the tendency of the Government has been to call to this House men of wealth—plutocrats—to counterbalance the absence of property qualification in another place. Out of the twenty, or twenty-five, last nominees of this House, one could pick a good number of millionaires or quasi-millionaires, and to mention but a few of the late deceased members, we have the Hon. Mr. Ross, Hon. Mr. Rodier, Hon. Mr. Macdonald, and Hon. Mr. Rolland, who in point of wealth would have graced the peerage. The same thing applies to the Liberal Government while they held power from 1873 to 1878. No fault can be found with their appointees, and no fault attaches, therefore, in my view, to the succeeding Government relative to this question. How is it, then, that under these conditions the Senate does not hold its own? How do you account for the failure of the fruit when the trees are sound and select? This is the question I propose to elucidate, or at least to discuss, to-day. I am aware that the question is anything but a popular one, either in this House or in some of the Ministerial papers, but I will not be deterred from bringing up the question on that account, because I am convinced that there is something wrong with the Senate.

An hon. GENTLEMAN—Where?

HON. MR. POIRIER—My hon. friend asks me where? From the complaints I have heard from many gentlemen in this House—I will not be personal—complaints that have filled this House as the desert was filled with the lamentations of the mother of Ishmael—some gentlemen, like Rachael weeping for her children, will not be comforted because we have no Cabinet Minister in the Senate.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—A Cabinet Minister with a portfolio?

HON. MR. POIRIER—Yes; I mean a Cabinet Minister with a portfolio. I