

our liberties, on which we can make no concession. I merely ask for those papers to give hon. gentlemen an opportunity to examine them, and to see how we have been ill-used, and afterwards to come to our assistance and give us the relief to which we are entitled.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him why he inserts in his motion the words "and on which action has been taken?" Is not that restrictive of the purpose of my hon. friend's motion? Supposing the papers are before the Council, and the Council has taken no action, would my hon. friend not require the papers then as well as if action had been taken? or, if a portion of the papers had not been acted upon? Would not the motion of my hon. friend be more to the purpose he has in view by striking out the words "and on which action has been taken?"

HON. MR. GIRARD—I would have no objection whatever to accept the amendment of my hon. friend; at the same time, all the papers have been submitted to the Government, and the Government have no interest in keeping any of them back. It is not one of those questions where the Government could have any object in keeping back papers. All the papers which have been sent I suppose will be produced, and if action has been taken on one action has been taken on all.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I can assure my hon. friend that the Government sympathize with his desire to get the papers before the country, and all will be brought down.

HON. MR. POWER—It seems to me that the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman from Toronto is a perfectly proper one, because the Privy Council did not take any action at all, I understand; they simply handed the case over to the Supreme Court.

HON. MR. GIRARD—All the papers which have been submitted to the Government in that case will have to come here.

The motion was agreed to.

STANDARD TIME.

MOTION.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington) moved :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General; praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House, all communications relating to the "Reckoning of Time," with all other papers in the possession of the Government, bearing on the said subject.

He said : I wish to offer a few remarks on the motion of which I have given notice with respect to the reckoning of time. For some years past the question of simplifying time-reckoning on a scientific basis has been discussed and considered by various scientific bodies in Europe and America. In 1884 the president of the United States, under the authority of an Act of Congress, invited the Governments of all civilized nations to appoint delegates to meet at Washington to consider the question. Twenty-five delegates from twenty five nations attended. At that conference the meridian of Greenwich was adopted, and resolutions were passed determining the principles of a universal time reckoning. What is now known as standard time has been in general use for several years on this continent and also in Japan. In Great Britain it has been adopted and legalized by Act of Parliament. The question is being discussed by all the nations of Europe and the late Count Von Moltke, an eminent authority, delivered a speech in the Imperial Parliament of Germany advocating its adoption. Standard time is in use by nearly all of the railroads on this continent; the 24-hour notation, however, is not universal. For example, it is in use on the Canadian Pacific Railway from Port Arthur west to the Pacific coast, but east of Port Arthur the 12 hour A.M. and P.M. system is still in use—but standard time is adopted all the same. It is important in the public interests to follow the example of Great Britain and pass an Act of Parliament to legalize the time now in such general use in this country to avoid litigation which may arise in connection with the registration of deeds, wills and other important documents. It will be in the recollection of this House that I introduced a Bill for that purpose last session, but as the question was a new one to the House hon. gentlemen had not generally become interested in it. I withdrew the Bill to