

tank importations and the reduction from 30 to 10 cents in the inspection fees.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—Not only that, but it gives an opportunity to our mechanics to manufacture barrels, which were formerly manufactured in the United States. The hon. gentleman will see that it means a considerable profit to the country.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I congratulate the Government on the fact that the hon. gentleman from St. John, who was manifesting symptoms of independence during the session, has got back to his right place at the close of it. I did not say that the reduction from 25 per cent to 12½ per cent would be no benefit; I said it would have a very trifling effect, and I gave as a reason that that reduction would not be sufficient to induce the manufacturers in England to go into that line of business and to come over here and compete with the United States manufacturers. If there was no combine between Canada and the United States, the reduction of the duty would be very considerable and important.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—I would remind the hon. gentleman from Halifax that I am always in opposition to the Government when their measures are not good. When their measures are good, I would be acting very improperly to oppose them.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL moved the second reading of Bill (132) "An Act further to amend the Act respecting the Senate and House of Commons." He said:—This Bill is in the line of the resolution we have just passed in reference to the messengers. It is to allow each member of Parliament to be paid his full sessional indemnity, unless he has been absent more than six days during the session from his attendance in the House. You remember at the last session of Parliament the time allowed was twelve days. That was on account of the great length of the session by which members were kept from their ordinary business a much longer time than in ordinary sessions

of Parliament. This Bill is to allow six days, which is supposed to be a time proportionate to that allowed last session. While moving this I express the hope that in future the House of Commons will not adopt this system, but as the Bill has been passed by the House of Commons at the solicitation of the members of that House, I see no reason why the members of the Senate should not be treated in the same way.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—Last session was an extraordinary one, and I think that the Government were justified in allowing a certain number of days, because in a session extending four or five months, members would necessarily require to be absent sometimes. My own objection to the Bill is that it looks like adding six days to the sessional indemnity.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I objected to the rule being suspended in favour of this Bill at its first reading, and I do not regret that I did so. I was pleased to notice that the hon. leader of the Government did not feel himself in a position to say anything in favour of this Bill. It is one calculated to bring discredit upon and lower the dignity of this Parliament in the eyes of so much of the civilized world as becomes aware of this action. Last session was a very long one. It extended over the business part of the year, and (as I think even last year very improperly) the Government introduced a measure at the close of the session allowing each member to get the indemnity for twelve days as having been spent in the service of the country which these gentlemen had spent in attending to their own business. It comes to this, that a member of either House has his choice. He is paid a certain sum to cover his expenses while here at the seat of Government. If he thinks that his own private business is of more consequence than the business of the country, and he goes home and he attends to his own private business, he has no right to expect to be paid from the public Treasury as though he had been serving the country. There was some little excuse last year, as I have said, but this year we have had an exceptionally short session—lasting only two months—the shortest session since 1876, and members are paid \$1,000 for the session—that is at the rate of \$6,000 a year. There may be a few members of either House whose time and services are