

We must either give up the collection of the revenue altogether, or use the means which are necessary to enable us to collect it.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I think this provision is made for the purpose of preventing the importation of tobacco from the French island of St. Pierre Miquelon. There is a good deal of tobacco smuggled into the country from that island, and the boxes are taken there, filled and brought back.

HON. MR. DICKEY—If that be the intention of the law, why not make it applicable to dealers only?

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

THIRD READING.

Bill (130) "An Act to amend the Interpretation Act." (Mr. Abbott.)

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (65) "An Act further to amend the Criminal Law."

On the 1st clause,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—At an early period of the Session a Bill was introduced in the House for the purpose of making provision for escapes from industrial schools and reformatories. That Bill was withdrawn in consequence of correspondence going on between the Government at Ottawa and the Government of Ontario on that subject, and finally clauses were agreed upon which are embodied in this section of the Bill. Moderate remedies and moderate punishments are provided for escapes, which constitute an extension of existing provisions to cases to which they did not heretofore apply.

HON. MR. POWER—I observe that it makes provision only for cases where the offender is apprehended before the expiration of his term of imprisonment. Supposing the offender is not apprehended until after the expiration of the term—that he escapes detection for some months, and during that time his term of imprisonment expires, under this Bill there is no punishment for the escape. Looking hurriedly through the chapter which this Bill pro-

poses to amend, I do not see that there is any penalty contained in it. Now, clearly the fact that the escaped prisoner is not caught before the expiration of his term should not relieve him from punishment.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It becomes a new crime.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The view that the hon. gentleman from Halifax presents did not occur to me, and I am unable at the moment to give him any answer to it. If the House will allow the clause to stand I will look into it.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I am quite satisfied that that point has not been overlooked in the framing of the criminal law. It is an old offence, and there must be some provision for it.

HON. MR. POWER—There is a provision as to escapes from penitentiaries, but I do not think there is any provision with respect to escapes from reformatories.

The clause was allowed to stand.

On sections 3 and 5,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Sections 3 and 5 of the existing Act refer to the keeping of a disorderly house, and the limit to the age. There are two classes of offences created by those sections. One is the keeping of a disorderly house, where the prostitution of a child under the age of 12 is committed. That is punished more severely, of course, than the prostitution of a girl of more advanced age. The object of this clause, as it stands in the Bill, is to increase the age during which the most severe punishment is administered from 12 to 13. There have been many representations made to the Government desiring the increase of this age to a still greater age. I think the representations made would tend to make it apply to girls under the age of 16, but the Government have found it impossible to consent to such an alteration as that. The age is too great, considering the position that girls occupy in this country as to the age of puberty. Thirteen appears to be sanctioned by usage in England and everywhere else, and the Government adopted the English rule when this amending Bill was framed. In deference, however, to the feeling that has been expressed on this subject, I am induced to