

I have heard with a great deal of interest and pleasure the letter which the hon. gentleman from Halifax has read. May I ask my hon. friend where it comes from?

HON. MR. POWER—It comes from Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

THIRD READING.

Bill (103) "An Act further to amend the Canada Temperance Act." (Mr. Dickey.)

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (134) "An Act respecting Fishing Vessels of the United States of America." (Mr. Abbott.)

The Senate adjourned at 4 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, April 28th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Order of the Day having been called,

Committee of the whole House on (Bill V) An Act to amend the Acts respecting the North-West Territories.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved that the Speaker do now leave the Chair.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I have not occupied the time of the House very much during this session, but on this important question it is my duty to speak at some length, and I am ready to do so in English if the House will allow me to use my notes freely. The Bill now under consideration is one of great importance. It does not deal with one subject alone, but contains no less than five, each of them deserving due consideration. It is not my intention to discuss at

this moment all those provisions, to which I see very few objections. I will confine my remarks to the last but not the least feature of this project, that which deals with the French language in the North-West Territories, a subject to which I am bound to give my attention and which demands that we should use all constitutional means to have it settled equitably and in such a way as to bring about peace and harmony amongst the people of this Dominion.

This question of the French language has over and over again been discussed in and outside Parliament and in the press, yet, it is always a matter of surprise to me to witness the determination of a certain class of our people to reject the use and even the teaching of French. Its adversaries make use of arguments which, I admit, have some weight when they are made use of against all other languages, but against French they are weak, not to say of no value. Those people seem to forget that unlike every other language which is used only in the country whence it comes, French is universal; it is called the language of Courts. I need not repeat here what I said some few days ago (on the 27th ultimo), that this country was French from its very beginning, and that the fact that the indifference of France had caused its surrender to England could not change this fact, especially when a solemn treaty between these two great countries had recognized amongst many other privileges that of a French nationality. I am at a loss to understand how it is that in every part of the world French is spoken and taught, —even in England—while here in Canada some of our English-speaking men who claim the British Isles to be their mother land, will agitate and do their best to deprive this country of the use of the French language. Are people less intelligent abroad than they are here, or is there less fanaticism on the other side of the Atlantic than here? I will not undertake to decide. But the fact is there, and facts sars tubborn things.

It is not necessary that I should go over the whole world and name a number of countries where a mixed population, speaking each its own mother tongue, exists, living together in peace and harmony with each other. What difference, then, can it be to our community whether French is an official language, whether it is