

man to a great extent. My hon. friend made a comparison between the system existing in Scotland and the system in France. I think the system which prevails in Canada leads to compounding of felonies, and in many cases parties who should go before the criminal court and should be punished, enjoy immunity from punishment because they have money, and have been left in a position to settle the matter with the private prosecutor. I had myself, though a lawyer, occasion to bring personally a criminal accusation before a court of justice, and the costs I incurred and the result of the whole thing were such that I decided that if I were attacked in the future I would try to defend myself, but should never look for redress to a criminal court. In fact, to expect the individual who is wronged to take the initiative proceedings, and to incur all the responsibility and all the costs of criminal procedure, places such a burden upon his shoulders that in many instances it is a denial of justice. This means immunity to the guilty party, so that I think this is a matter which commends itself to the serious consideration of the Government. For my own part, I am very glad to have heard from the leader of the Government in this House that there is some intention on the part of the Administration to examine into the question. It requires, however, the concurrent action of the Local Legislatures with the Federal, because part of the administration of justice is in the hands of the Local Governments.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (27), "An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, Chap. 104, of the Revised Statutes." He said: This is a Bill for the purpose of providing a better mode of putting on the official mark indicating the number of gallons contained in a package than the mode which is provided by the existing Act. The law requires that the number of gallons shall be marked by the authorized officer on one of the staves of the barrel—the bung stave of the barrel—which is not visible when the barrels are piled, and it is soon filled up and obliterated

while being rolled about the floor. The object of the Act is to provide that the capacity of the cask shall be marked on the head.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Would it not be better to read the Bill at length at the Table and get rid of it. There is only one clause to it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—A word or two in the Bill will have to be changed, which refers to a clause of an old Act, and which I cannot find at present.

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

CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF FIRST OFFENDERS BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (E), "An Act to permit the Conditional release of First Offenders in certain cases." He said: This is a Bill prompted by the desire to give to the offender, on account of his youth or of extenuating circumstances that may have occurred about the commission of a crime, his previous good character, and the like, some chance of reforming himself before he is brought in contact with the contaminating influences of criminals in gaols and reformatories. It has become a matter of remark—in fact, it is almost universally true, that however trifling may have been the offence which consigns an offender to gaol and the society of other criminals, however comparatively innocent he may be at the time he receives his first conviction, he is tolerably certain to come out of prison a confirmed criminal, a man practically a member of the criminal class thereafter. In England this subject has attracted a great deal of attention, and two years ago an Act was passed by the Imperial Government enabling the court which convicted a youth answering the description I have just given, with extenuating circumstances, to order that that person be permitted to come up on a future occasion for sentence, giving him thereby a period of probation during which, by good character, he might redeem himself and avoid the necessity of going to gaol at all, or having the brand of perpetual infamy