

Hon. Mr. BUREAU was very desirous to encourage home industry, but at the same time he saw danger in a Bill which disturbed the relations we at present enjoyed with the United States. More than that, he doubted whether we had the power to legislate on such a subject. The same difficulty might occur that arose in 1837, when the Special Council passed an Act to abolish Habeas Corpus. At that time a very distinguished lawyer, Judge Valliere, contended that we had no power to overrule Imperial legislation, and he suffered for expressing that opinion, but he was subsequently proved to be correct. We could not be too careful in dealing with matters of legislation, where we might come into conflict with Imperial authorities. He was in favor of a certain amount of protection to home industry, but there was always a danger that the principle might be pushed to extremes. He had no objection to the imposition of a small duty, but he believed the general principles of the Bill are antagonistic to the public interests. He could not too strongly urge the advisability of cultivating the most friendly relations with the United States, instead of exciting the hostile feelings of the publishing interest of that country. He deprecated any undue haste in dealing with such matters.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE pointed out some difficulties in the way of our dealing directly with the question.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT expressed himself desirous of sweeping away our present anomalous system which is so injurious to the interests of the publishers of Canada.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL did not suppose there is any reason to apprehend that the passage of the bill will interfere with the relations between Canada and the United States. He did not see any analogy whatever between the present question and the suspension of the Act of Habeas Corpus by the Council in 1837. He did not claim to be acting contrary to Imperial Legislation, but in pursuance of the express authority given to us. At the same time the Government wished to act with all caution, and had therefore inserted a clause declaring that the law shall not go into effect until there is a proclamation of the Governor to that end. The Government, however, hoped and believed the English law officers would come to the same conclusion they had, that Canada had the right to legislate with respect to such matters.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU contended that the case he had cited was directly in point, and again argued we had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The bill was read a second time.

MESSAGE.

A Message was received from His Excellency the Governor General with respect to the receipt in England of the Address expressive of the gratification of Parliament at the recovery of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

Several Bills were received from the Commons.

The House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, June 5.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITION.

Hon. Mr. OLIVIER presented a petition of Mutual Fire Association of Stanstead against a bill to incorporate Agricultural Assurance Company of Canada, and it was read at the table, and then referred to Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Mr. DICKSON presented report of Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, favorable to reception of petitions from several Boards of Trade, and of J. Schultz and others, for railway objects. Also, on bills establishing St. Catherine's Board of Trade, and incorporating Inland Marine and Fire Insurance Company, and London and Canadian Loan and Agency, all of which were read a third time and passed.

COPYRIGHTS.

The House then went into Committee on the bill to amend the law respecting Copyrights.

Hon. Mr. OLIVIER in the chair.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL expressed the pleasure he felt that Hon. Mr. Ryan who had always taken so deep an interest in the question was present to give the House the benefit of his knowledge of the matter.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST doubted the advisability of prohibiting the importation of books.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said it was the invariable practice to prohibit importation of works which were copyrighted in England or the United States.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU contended that the bill, if passed, would not only be antagonistic to Imperial legislation but actually in conflict with a Treaty existing between Great Britain and France. The 15th and 17th sections of the Imperial Act expressly stated that the rights of British copyrights should extend not only to Great Britain, but to all parts of the British dominions; and yet it was now proposed to pass a bill in the face of that Imperial statute. He contended that even