Mr. BLAKE. But the difficulty is that up to this time, as I understand, the investigation is made, and then the subsequent decision of the court is promulgated and both parties are made aware of what the decision is, and afterwards there may be an appeal to the Minister. What my hon. friend suggests is that there should be some information to the parties so that they would be able to give reasons to the Minister for reversing the decision. It seems to me that there should be some communication to the parties interested as to what the decision of the court is, in order that they may be prepared either to move against it, or that it may be sustained by the Minister, as the case may be.

Mr. McLELAN. We might add that the parties should be furnished with a copy of the opinion.

Bill, as amended, reported.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved the second reading of Bill (No 114) for the prevention of the adulteration of Food and Drugs.

Mr. LESAGE. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the importance of the measure now submitted to the consideration of the House is so very great and deserves, to such a high degree, to call our attention and to awaken our solicitude, that certain remarks given at some length may not be considered as a digression under the present circumstances, and may aid a certain number of persons in judging of the evil which the hon. Minister wishes to remedy, by presenting this Bill and by taking it under his protection. In fact, it is by aiding ourselves by the light of chemistry and microscopy, these two branches of human knowledge which have been the cause of our making such rapid progress in all modern discoveries, that we are able to trace out, and that without any possible error, all the adulterations which are daily made by men in the different articles which are used both for our daily consumption and to cure or relieve us from the numerous elements of sickness which are surrounding us, like a second atmosphere. Ever struggling on all kinds of grounds to satisfy our daily wants, too often do we scorn to throw a searching look on these principles of death, from which we recoil, nevertheless, whenever we think we recognize them, and which, however, we eat with delight and drink with rapture, on all our tables and in all our banquets. Still, we are better off than these poor young ones who drink death while betraying their sufferings by their cries and by their tears, and finally, in the midst of the weeping family who are trying to find means to alleviate the pain of the young sufferer, die in the arms of the one who, since their early days, has fed them with adulterated, sophisticated and poisoned milk and numerous drugs which, by their dangerous composition, accelerate and help to bring on the catastrophe. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to run over, for a moment, the list of adulterations which are the most frequent, both as regards food and drugs, and I do not hesitate in saying that all my hon. friends will admit that the picture is not overdrawn, and that there lies real danger, that these adulterations contain numerous morbifical principles, and for thousand who have, alas, disappeared in the spring of life, they have sometimes been the cause of a slow poisoning, and very often they explain these numerous sudden deaths whose immediate cause is not indicated. I shall begin with one of these substances which we use the most frequently, and which everybody, besides, uses in great quantity. I refer to flour. Everybody knows, to a certain extent, what is the physical composition of flour generally; but what is not known by everybody is that flour may be adulterated in a great many ways. All flour, in general, is a mixture of starch, of dextrine, of gluten, of sugar, of grease and of grey mineral matters. In flour of first quality, the bran is nearly eliminated; it ought to be odourless, and it has no acrid taste. There are a great many diseases of flour. They are mostly animal and vegetable parasites. We have the *acarus farinæ*, the vibrious of the larva of certain insects. This can be seen through the microscope, and it is an indication of the alteration of the flour. Among the vegetable parasites, we have the various kinds of fungi, which are said to develop symtoms of gastro-intestinal irritation in persons who eat bread made out of that flour; and I say that we can only judge of them by the aid of the microscope. They are to be found especially in cheap flour, which is not the least important as it is the poor man's flour; it is the kind of flour which cost the least. Then we have the ergot, which is found in flour made out of spurred rye. It is easily detected on grain as it goes in to the grist mill, but it is difficult to detect it in flour. It is to be regretted that we have no easy and accurate chemical process by which we could detect the presence of this eminently venemous substance, which gives rise to such serious accidents. Whole communities are fed with spurred rye. A protracted use of it produces intoxication similar to that felt by the drunkard. One of the most remarkable phenomena is the sphacelus or gangrene of the feet and hands, which may spreed over all the limbs. There is a species of convulsions which are called "cereal convulsions," which have been attributed to it, and a number of other diseases and accidents, especially with females. Besides, flour is adulterated with starch made out of barley, oats, rye and rice, and with the fecula of potatoes, beans, peas, and sometimes even by venomous plants, such as tares. All these kinds of starch may be detected with the magnifying glass. Flax seed, Indian corn, and buckwheat also enter sometimes in the composition of bad flour. The mineral matters which are added to wheat are alum, plaster, chalk, and powder of silica. Here, chemistry by re-agents may detect the fraud and protect the community against these adulterated flours. It would be too tedious to enter into the minutiæ of the disease and adulterations of flour. I mention the most important, in the order to show how the germs of death are scattered all around us while we do not seem to realize the importance of this subject. From the water which we are drinking, and which contains so many organic, parasitical and mineral impurities, even to the bread we eat and which we often find covered with fungi, every thing conspires to the insidious destruction of man; we swallow poison slowly—and the more surely for that reason—without employing the means which the Almighty has put at our disposal to struggle effectually against these dangerous and subtile poisons. We have our flour Inspectors, but I do not think their process of investigation is sufficient to protect the public; and I do not think they are qualified, from a scientific point of view, to practically fulfil their duty. When they are called upon to decide on the quality of flour, they examine a sample, and they declare that such flour is of first, second or third quality, without having recourse to the means offered by chemistry and microscopy to determine effectively the value of flour. The microscope by itself, in certain cases, and chemistry with its re-agents, in other cases, are the only means by which satisfaction may be given and confidence may be inspired in the public, especially as regards the lower grades of flour, which, owing to its cheap price, is the food of the poor, who thus cheaply poison themselves, when such flour should have been taken out of the market altogether, as an injurious and unhealthy food. These samples of flour should always be tested by analysis in order to find out the character of the deterioration. I shall now speak about meat. Considered as a nourishment, meat offers such great advantages and is of such universal use that we cannot give it too much attention. Great is the number of poisonings caused by the consumption of unwholesome meat in these times, in which meat taken from cattle suffering from diseases, of cattle whose death has been caused by diseases, is clandestinely offered for sale on our