

INDIAN LANDS IN ONTARIO BILL.**THIRD READING.**

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (A) "An Act for the settlement of certain questions between the Governments of Canada and Ontario respecting Indian Lands."

(In the committee.)

HON. MR. POWER—I think I understood the leader of the House to say that the agreement which is set out in the schedule of the Bill has actually been arrived at by the Governments.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Yes.

HON. MR. DICKEY, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendments.

The Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**THIRD READING.**

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (B) "An Act to amend the 'Bills of Exchange Act, 1890.'"

(In the Committee.)

On the fifth clause,—

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think the House ought to pass that clause without some consideration, and although it may be slightly out of order, I think I should be justified here in making a few observations as to the speed with which this Bill is being pushed through the Senate. This measure was only laid on the desks of hon. members yesterday during the session of the House. The hon. leader forthwith, upon the Bills being laid upon the Table, moved the second reading. It seems to me that it would have been more respectful to the Senate to have allowed the second reading to stand over until to-day, so that hon. members would have had an opportunity of seeing what is in the Bill. The impression made upon the mind of the ordinary member would be that this was a very unimportant Bill, and that it merely supplied some trifling omissions in the Act of last year; but, as a matter of fact, there

is one very important provision—a provision which departs altogether from the decision arrived at by both Houses last session. I am satisfied that very few members of this House knew, when the Bill was read the second time, that it contained that provision. To-day the Minutes were laid upon our desks only a very short time before the meeting of the Senate, so that, as a matter of fact, the members of this House have not had any sufficient notice either of the character of this Bill or of the time when it was to be considered. It is most important that our legislation should not be done hurriedly, and that we should have full time to consider every measure which comes before us. In the discussion which took place last session on a motion made by the hon. gentleman from Shediac, I think it was, the hon. leader of the House dwelt at very considerable length upon the importance of the work performed by the Senate in the way of legislation. Now, I think it is very creditable to this House that it should do such work as the hon. gentleman pointed out it had done. He dwelt, if I remember rightly, with peculiar pleasure upon the numerous amendments which had been made by this House to Bills which came from the Commons. It was a very meritorious act on the part of this House to amend such Bills, but I think where Bills are introduced in the Senate, coming even from the Government, it is quite as meritorious for us to consider them carefully and to amend them if possible, and a Government Bill coming from the House of Commons, one would suppose, would be no more susceptible of amendment than a Government Bill introduced in this House. I do not think that our powers of amendment should be confined to Bills which come from the House of Commons, and if we are not to consider all measures which come from the Government here carefully, and do our best to amend them, then the introducing of Bills in this House is a mere empty form, and the Senate might be dispensed with, so far as Government Bills are concerned, at any rate. The clause under consideration proposes, in a great measure, to reverse the deliberate action of both Houses taken during last session. This particular matter was discussed in the Commons at very considerable length, and it was also discussed in this House, and the amendment which