

out any desire to absolutely ruin people. At the same time, I never would consent for a moment to the opium being sold here. They first asked for a year or two years to be allowed to get rid of it. That certainly would not be in the public interest. I suggested to the agent here that they undertake to export it to some other country where it is permitted to be used. Of course, in my view, it ought to go into the ocean. Finally, to-day, I got the consent of the Privy Council to make a compromise, by the owners undertaking to bond the quantity now in Victoria and Vancouver to manufacture no more, and to give security that the stock would be exported and not sold in this country; that it should be put in bond and released from bond whenever they made a sale abroad, and they should give security to carry out that arrangement. To carry out that provision I suggest a second clause to the Bill. I presume that is the fairest way. The owners are satisfied with it. At first, the time was limited to three months. They said that was too short, that they would have to communicate with their agents in parts of Asia, and if they got six months they could accomplish it, though they would make a loss.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It is practically giving them time to look around and make the best bargain they can.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, so long as it goes out of Canada.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It gives them an opportunity to smuggle it into the United States.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If it was not placed in bond, it is probable that is where it would go.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not rise for the purpose of opposing the proposition made by the government upon its moral aspects. It is quite commendable for any country to stop to the fullest possible extent the use of this drug, but there is a point connected with it that I think ought to receive the consideration of the government and of the Senate, and of the people of the Dominion. The Senate has been informed by the Secretary of State that no less than 66,000 pounds of opium

has been imported into Canada for the purpose of being refined, and then, of course, put upon the market. Upon this amount of opium the government has received, under the law, the Customs and Tariff Act, \$66,000. If parliament has permitted this industry to be carried on for a number of years, and those carrying on the business to import to the extent indicated, and the customs has collected the amount of money stated, is it equitable or just to pass a law depriving these people of the privilege of continuing their business and at the same time keep the \$66,000 paid in duties into the coffers of the country? Does it not strike every one, that living in a country where vested rights are respected, compensation should be made in some way to the importer of this article that has paid duty and is now being practically confiscated. If it were in England, it would be different. I do not mean compensation for the loss of money invested in the erection of their refineries, but should not the government at least refund to the importers the \$66,000 which they have taken from their pockets? Look at this thing reasonably, apart from the desire we all have to stop the use of opium in all forms. Let us look at it from an honest, business standpoint. If the government permits a business to be carried on as we have done for years and years ever since confederation, until it has attained the large proportion that it has, and have received these Chinamen's money, should we keep the money and destroy the article upon which the money was collected without compensation. It does strike me that this Bill, laudable, I admit, in its character and in the intention of the government, is a confiscation of property, not only a confiscation of property, but it fines the owners to the extent of \$66,000 that they paid as duty. During the last six months the probabilities are that they have refined a quantity of opium and put it on the market. If I understand the trade, the crude opium when imported into the country, is put in what the Chinamen call bickee for four or five days before it is fit to take into the refinery and be refined for use by the people. They have imported a large quantity of the