

rather try and shirk the duty and not stamp it, unless a penalty is imposed for not doing so.

HON. MR. GOWAN—It is made a statutory duty.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I will bring it to the notice of the Minister of Justice, and see if the amendment the hon. gentleman suggests is acceptable, before the Bill goes to Committee.

CANNED GOODS BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (121) "An Act to amend the Act respecting Canned Goods."

He said:—This is a very slight amendment of the Revised Statutes on the subject of Canned Goods, for the purpose of preventing frauds. The sub-section, which is as follows, explains the object of the Bill:—

"2. Every such package containing goods prepared from products which have been dried previously to being so prepared, shall, in addition, be labelled or stamped with the word "soaked," which word shall be plainly printed diagonally across the face of the label in large legible type at least half an inch in height and three eighths of an inch in width."

The difficulty has been that although the law required the word "soaked" to be stamped on the packages, it was done in such a way by being put in a remote corner and in small letters, that it was not observable without close investigation, and in this way goods that had been dried and soaked were passed off as fresh.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read at length at the table.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed under a suspension of the 41st rule.

ATLANTIC AND NORTH-WEST RAILWAY COMPANY'S BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. MCKINDSEY moved the second reading of Bill (44) "An Act

respecting the Atlantic and North-West Railway Company."

HON. MR. POWER—I am not going to oppose the second reading of this Bill. I had some conversation with the hon. gentleman who has charge of it and told him that I wished to say something about it when it came before the House. He asked me not to say anything at the second reading of the Bill as he was anxious to get it before the Committee. I did not wish to delay the progress of the Bill, but it was understood that I reserved to myself the right to discuss it at a subsequent stage.

HON. MR. MCKINDSEY—The hon. gentleman has correctly stated the understanding between us.

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

MASSAWIPPI JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY'S BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. STEVENS, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Cochrane, moved the second reading of Bill (67), "An Act to incorporate the Massawippi Junction Railway Company."

HON. MR. POWER—I do not propose to detain the House at this hour by any lengthened observations on this Bill, but I wish to call attention to its nature. It will be remembered by hon. gentlemen that we have had at different times discussions on the Short Line Railway and the connection that was to be made between the railway system in the neighborhood of Montreal and the railway system of the Lower Provinces. Hon. gentlemen will remember that the great object that Parliament and the Government had, or professed to have, in view some years ago when granting large subsidies to the Short Line Railway, so-called, was to bring the trade of the west to a Dominion port in the east. Now, this Bill is comparatively an insignificant one, but it provides for a very important step in connection with that Short Line Railway. The ob-