

that subject is engaging the attention of the Government now.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (45) "An Act to incorporate the Tilsonburg, Lake Erie and Pacific Railway Company." (Mr. McKindsey.)

Bill (23) "An Act to incorporate the Belding, Paul & Company (Limited)." (Mr. Ogilvie.)

#### IMPROPER USE OF WEAPONS BILL.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (B) "An Act respecting the improper use of Fire-arms and other Weapons."

(In the Committee.)

On the 2nd sub-section of the 1st clause,—

HON. MR. KAULBACH said: This sub-section gives to the magistrate a great deal of power. He may grant an exemption to extend to any part of the Dominion of Canada. It seems to me that the power should not extend beyond the Province in which he is appointed to act. The hon. gentleman who leads the House might look into this matter.

The clause was adopted.

On the 2nd clause,—

HON. MR. READ said: It has been suggested to me by a gentleman in the other House that provision should be made against selling ammunition to boys. A case which occurred in St. John was mentioned, where a boy had found a pistol and bought ammunition and shot another boy on a wharf. I move that the words "or any ammunition therefor," be added after the word "air-gun."

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. ALMON—I should like to add to that, "or any toy pistol with fulminating caps." I have known in my practice two cases of accidents occurring through the use of such toys. Boys put stones in these toy pistols, and fulminating caps have sufficient explosive force to do considerable damage.

HON. MR. POWER—The first clause of the Bill, I think, covers the ground reasonably well. It covers any kind of weapons

that is calculated to do mischief, and there is no reason why we should ruin the trade of people who deal in toy pistols.

HON. MR. DICKEY—The first clause of this Bill is applicable to the case of a person who is found with a pistol on his person. This clause is intended to reach the person who sells. It is a good provision.

HON. MR. POWER—If an instrument is harmless, why should it be prohibited?

The committee divided on the amendment, which was rejected.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—It seems to me a clause should be added to this Bill, requiring merchants who sell pistols and air-guns to keep a record of each sale, giving the name of the purchaser, the date of the sale, and the number or other mark of the weapon, so that it could be identified. Very frequently such a record would be of service in the detection of crime. It would cause very little trouble to the merchant to register these sales.

HON. MR. DEVER—What would prevent a person who bought a pistol from transferring it to another?

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—This record would always show who had bought the pistol in the first place.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—But the purchaser might give a wrong name.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—That might occur in any transaction of life, but it seems to me that a record such as I have mentioned might prove very useful in the detection of crime. I move that the following words be added as a sub-section: "Every one who sells any pistol or air-gun shall keep a record of such sale, the date thereof, name of the purchaser and the number or other mark by which such arm may be identified, under the penalty in the preceding section mentioned."

HON. MR. DICKEY—I should like to point out to the committee the very absurd position in which this clause will go to the House of Commons with that amendment. We first prevent the sale of fire-arms under the head of a penalty, and then we say that the person who sells fire-arms should keep a record of each sale. If that amendment is made it will be