

words that he may have said before he died. Has the hon. gentleman any letter of Mr. Bryson's, or any writing whatever, of his charging the deputy with incapacity or with any dereliction of duty during his eleven years' service? If he did not perform his duties efficiently and properly, surely Mr. Bryson would have reported against him. As to his taking invoices to Mr. Bryson's bedside when the latter was sick, it is the duty of every deputy, however competent and well qualified, to ask and submit to the advice of his superior. This only proves him to have been a diligent and obedient and most efficient deputy. If the latter's duties were improperly performed, where are the proofs? or, are they only the result of conversations of parties? I know I have the assurance of a great many persons in Montreal that Mr. Fauteux performed his duties very efficiently. The Collector of Customs at Montreal is not a judge of what should be a valuator of hardware. He had it from *ipse dixit*. I defy the Minister of Customs to show that he has one single letter to prove that Mr. Fauteux is not qualified. If I speak and feel warmly in the matter it is because I know there has been an injustice done, and that it cannot be remedied now, except the right hon. the leader of the Government takes it up. Mr. Hilton, I understand, has not been permanently appointed, therefore, I hope something will be done by giving Mr. Fauteux a fair trial. It is not in a spirit of fanaticism that I move in this matter. I did not know, when this case was first brought under my notice, of an outsider having been temporarily appointed to the position. I do not wish to make any such matters a question of nationality; those officers should be appointed by their merits. Mr. Fauteux went to Mr. Simpson, who refused him in the most rude manner, and then Mr. Fauteux told him if he had not been a French-Canadian he would have been appointed. In so doing Mr. Fauteux may have acted in an imprudent manner; but he felt warmly on the subject, and the events have proved that he had struck the right note.

MR. BOWELL: I desire to say in reference to the insinuation of improper feeling on account of nationality, that

MR. COURSOL.

there are some seven or nine appraisers in the Montreal Customs-house, four French-Canadians, one Chief appraiser and three assistants. I repudiate, in the strongest possible language, that a feeling of nationality ever entered my mind in this matter. I know that in one of the town-hips I promoted a French-Canadian to a position which had been held by an Englishman; and I did it because he was next in order for promotion and was fit for the position. I have a petition, from nearly all the hardware merchants of all political creeds, recommending Mr. Hilton. He has not been appointed permanently, but if he continues as he has been doing, I shall recommend him for the position. I have generally been found fault with in Lower Canada, for having appointed French-Canadians in place of Englishmen; and now, because I refuse one who, by all the information put before me, is shown to be unfit for this particular position, I am blamed by the hon. gentleman who makes this motion. The hon. gentleman seems to insinuate that, because I have no letter from Mr. Bryson, I have taken advantage of the fact that that gentleman is dead, and cannot, therefore, be called as a witness to misrepresent what was said by him or to state what was not true in reference to his assistant. If he means to say that, I hurl it back with the contempt it deserves.

MR. COURSOL: I maintain all I have said so far as the Montreal Customs-house is concerned, and when the matter comes up, I shall charge the hon. gentleman with not doing his duty to French-Canadians in the matter of appointments at the port of Montreal.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

PRIVATE BILLS.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were severally considered in Committee of the Whole, reported, read *th*: third time and passed:—

Bill (No. 16) To authorise and provide for the winding up of the Stadacona Bank.—(Mr. Vallee.)

Bill (No. 50) To amend the Act to incorporate the Ontario and Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Williams.)

Bill (No. 73) To amend an Act respecting the