

government of Canada did was to place the lands in different parts of the country in two classes.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—What year was that in?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It was first transferred before confederation about 1854 or 1855 for the purpose of the government of Canada. The government of Canada divided it into two classes, but they took authority also from time to time to change property from one class to another. I may say as far as the property of the canal is concerned, the government of Canada held for many years the large block there which formed the corner of Wellington street, and that was sold a few years ago by the late Senator Clemow to the Lindsay Company. It was held, as has been observed by some hon. gentlemen, for a hotel for some years, and the price the late Senator Clemow put on it was \$125,000. He never succeeded in floating a company. The area of that block would be quite equal to the area for the proposed hotel, so that as far as precedent went, there would be that precedent for it.

The motion was agreed to on a division, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

PROPRIETARY OR PATENT MEDICINES BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (146) An Act respecting proprietary or patent medicines.

He said: It must be within the recollection of every hon. gentleman that patent medicines are too freely sold. Some of the patent medicines have been used practically for the sale of alcohol, and persons have acquired a taste for stimulants entirely from taking patent medicines. I may mention Peruna as one which is said to contain about 30 per cent of alcohol. The object of the Bill is that every manufacturer or importer of a proprietary medicine shall procure annually from the Minister of Inland Revenue a numbered certificate of registration, and shall file with the department an analysis of its component parts, so that the public may understand what it contains.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

I think the Bill is extremely weak, quite unequal to meet the necessities of the case, because I see that a very long list of drugs that I consider—and many of which everybody else considers are absolute poison, are still permitted to be placed in patent medicines without the public being informed of the fact. We find carbolic acid, corrosive sublimate, nux vomica, hellebore, &c.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Those are not allowed.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If I have read the Bill aright, those particular medicines, which are recognized in the pharmacopœia and the various encyclopedias, are permitted to be used without attention being called to them. So that I think that the objections which might be urged by the trade against the Bill are very much modified by that fact. There is one clause in the Bill which I think is very useful and very important; that is that no firm or corporation shall distribute or permit to be distributed on the doorways, &c., any sample of a proprietary medicine. I have read that one or two children in Canada have recently been fatally poisoned by picking up packages left on the doorsteps and consuming them.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—I do not know why the word 'sample' should be there.

Hon. Mr. ROY—This proposed law is a step in the right direction, and the government is to be congratulated for introducing this Bill. I do not believe that a more important question could be dealt with than the manufacture and sale of patent medicines. The use of patent medicines in many cases is a question of life and death for the people of Canada. We cannot, I suppose, discuss and amend this Bill considerably at this stage of the session, but I cannot allow it to become law without offering an amendment when we are in committee. I propose to move that clause 7 be amended by inserting after paragraph (c) of subclause 1 a clause providing that no proprietary or patent medicine containing opium or morphine or any of the ingredients thereof, shall be sold by any druggist without a prescription from a lawfully qualified physician. I feel in offering this amend-