

tradict what I said just now about the other Provinces. I would refer him to the provision with respect to New Brunswick in chapter 127 of the Revised Statutes.

HON. MR. DEVER—That has been repealed, I understand.

HON. MR. POWER—No; it is in force now. The next section contains a provision such as I have suggested just now.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is right, I think, in saying that there is a restriction in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but that is not the general policy of the Dominion, and I dare say it has found its way into the Act in deference to the feelings of the people of those Provinces. The clauses which are being repealed apply only to the Province of Quebec.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. READ (B.C.), from the committee, reported the Bill as amended.

SAMUEL MAY RELIEF BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington) moved the second reading of Bill (16) "An Act to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Samuel May." He said: This Bill has been postponed for some time until a Bill of a kindred character should reach us from the other House. The other Bill has not yet reached us, and I do not like to ask the House to defer the second reading of this one any longer.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Postpone it for ten days until the other Bill comes up, and let the two be considered together.

HON. MR. MACINNES—I may state that I have some evidence to offer before the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, if the Bill is referred to that committee, in order to show the *bona fides* of the petitioner and the merits of the Bill, and with the permission of the House I prefer to go on with it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I took some objection to my hon. friend's motion on a former occasion, and suggested that the whole question should come up before the House at the same time, and therefore I thought it better that this Bill should wait the

coming of the other, but I do not think it is quite fair to keep my hon. friend hanging between heaven and earth so long, and as he tells me that he has evidence to bring before the committee which will place the House in possession of the facts as to whether this Bill should be made an exception to the general rule, I think it is only fair that he should have the opportunity to do so. We can take any time we like to consider the Bill itself on another occasion after the Bill comes back from the committee.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I think in fairness to the House we should not be compromised by any action we take now at this stage of the Bill. The motion before the Chair is that the Bill be read the second time, and that involves the principle of the Bill, which I, for one, do not wish to be considered as assenting to. Whatever course my hon. friend wishes to take, we should not be embarrassed by being called upon to sanction the principle of the Bill at this stage, when we might be very much disposed hereafter to regret our action. If the motion had been that the Bill be not now read the second time, but that it be referred to committee, it would be another matter. That was the course I presumed my hon. friend would take, and in that way the House would not be compromised and he could bring all the information before committee that he desired.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I would call my hon. friend's attention to the fact that the second reading of a private Bill is not considered to have the same force as binding upon the House on future occasions as the second reading of a public Bill. Of course a great deal depends upon the merits of a private Bill and the evidence that can be adduced in support of it; and it is the ordinary practice of the House undoubtedly to give private Bills the second reading and refer them to committee. The House never hesitates, after the committee reports a Bill, to deal with it as they think proper. When this Bill came up on a former occasion the impression I had was that it was an entirely new proceeding, one for which I thought there was no precedent. I stated so on the authority quoted in another place. I have had occasion, however, since then, to look into the records myself, and I find that there are three or