

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (127) "An Act to amend the North-West Territories Act."

He said :—This is a very simple Bill. The first clause is for the purpose of correcting some verbal inaccuracies in section 9 of the North-West Territories Act. The second clause is for the purpose of reviving the appeal which was given by the former Act from the decision of a stipendiary magistrate, which appeal was taken away absolutely by the Revised Statutes. It appears that there are some cases that were disposed of by the stipendiary magistrate, in which the right of appeal under the former Act had expired naturally ; and therefore by the passing of the Revised Statutes those persons were cut out of their right of appeal, as they have no appeal under those statutes, because an entirely different Court is constituted to try those cases and before which an appeal from the stipendiary magistrate would not lie. This clause is simply to give those people the right of appeal which they had under the law when the judgment was rendered and which, the House will agree with me, they ought not to be deprived of by subsequent legislation.

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

DEFACING OF COUNTERFEIT NOTES AND THE USE OF IMITATIONS BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (123) "An Act respecting the defacing of counterfeit notes and the use of imitations of notes."

He said :—This Bill also has two objects only. The first is to remedy a circumstance, or to prevent the bad effects of a circumstance, which frequently occurs. A counterfeit or defaced note

is presented to a bank clerk or a public officer concerned in the management of finances who is an expert in such matters. He discovers that it is a counterfeit or a defaced note, and he returns it to the person who tendered it, by whom it may be passed over to somebody else who is less familiar with such matters. The American law compels the officer or clerk who receives such a counterfeit or defaced note, to stamp it immediately as bad, so that no innocent person can be imposed upon by it. The first clause which is inserted in the Act is practically a copy of the provision of the United States law applicable to the subject, which has been found to work very well in that country. The second clause is intended to prevent the practice by which ignorant people are often defrauded in the country—the issuing by traders of a sort of advertisement in the form of a bank bill, which people sometimes succeed in passing off on credulous individuals, some of whom perhaps cannot read, as an actual bank note. It is made to appear as a bank note in all respects and those people are cheated and deceived by it. This Bill provides a penalty of \$100, for :—

Every person who designs, engraves, prints or in any manner makes, executes, utters, issues, distributes, circulates or uses any business or professional card, notice, placard, circular, hand-bill or advertisement in the likeness or similitude of any Dominion or bank note, or any obligation or security of any Government or any bank, or who writes, prints or otherwise impresses upon any such note, obligation or security, any business or professional card, notice or advertisement, or any notice or advertisement of any matter or thing whatever.

HON. MR. POWER—This is a measure as to the desirability of which there can be no difference of opinion. I rise simply for the purpose of calling attention to an amendment which I think the hon. gentleman might have prepared before the Bill goes into committee. It will be noticed that the first clause declares at the end of it that "if such a person wrongfully stamps any genuine note he shall upon presentation redeem it at the face value thereof." That is right and proper, but there is no penalty imposed on the officer for refusing to stamp the note, and the officer in many cases would