

On the last clause,—

HON. MR. POWER—I see that this is re-enacting the old Inspection Act. Last year we amended the Inspection Act, and we are now striking out that amendment and going back to the old Act.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—We are never too old to learn.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—It seems to me that the amendments are all in favor of the large packers. In Prince Edward Island there are men engaged in the trade who have produced pickled pork of the finest quality possible. I do not think they always use these small cuts. I am inclined to think the contrary, that they try to do with as few cuts as possible, believing that the cuts conduce sooner or later to the spoiling of the pork.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The best class of pork is mess pork, and it can be cut into any size that the packers please. These amendments do not apply to mess pork.

HON. MR. POWER—With respect to the suggestion of the hon. leader, about never being too old to learn, there is another construction to be put on the conduct of the Government—that they passed the legislation last year without due consideration.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend must see that this is a very complicated department. The Government are standing alone against the ingenuity of the traders throughout the country, and they are obliged to get their knowledge of the details of the system by experience. They can hardly be accused of ignorance of the subject because they find one way of accomplishing a thing is better than another way.

HON. MR. PROWSE, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the third reading of the Bill, as amended.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I accept the statement made by the leader of the Government, that the trade have asked for these amendments, but so far as my small experience goes, they are quite opposed to the practice in Prince Edward Island,

where, as I have said, they have produced perhaps as fine and as well-cured pork as in any other part of Canada. The experience of packers in Prince Edward Island is against cutting the pork into such small pieces. On the contrary, their cuts pursue the rib of the animal, and are packed in the casks the whole way round the carcass. It seems to be quite incompatible with the demands of the trade. The leader of the Government has said very confidently that the trade demand this change, and that therefore it is in their interests. All I can say is, that it is opposed to the practice of the Prince Edward Island packers.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is explained by gentlemen who understand the matter better than I do, that these changes are made in the interests of the greatest consumers of pork, the lumbering population of the country, and I suppose there is not a large lumbering population in Prince Edward Island. I hope it will not prove inconvenient to any extent to the packers in Prince Edward Island. It is possible that it may be so, but I have stated what I am informed is actually the case, that the great consumers, purchasers, and dealers in pork desire these alterations, and it is for that reason that the Bill has been brought in.

HON. MR. PROWSE—It would almost appear from the wording of the Bill that it will be optional with the packer whether he shall have his pork inspected or not. If it were compulsory it would be a hardship to the packers of pork on the Island. There is a good deal of pork packed in the Province, for which a ready market is found in Halifax, and there is no objection raised to it. The practice in Prince Edward Island is to cut the pork in pieces running from the back half round the carcass, and 6 inches deep. That is the way they pack mess and prime mess.

HON. MR. DEVER—There is no doubt that is the usual practice of packing in the east. American pork is packed as the hon. gentleman has described it. With reference to the Prince Edward Island pork, it is not consumed in the Province, but is exported. I am not prepared to say whether this alteration in the law is desirable or objectionable, but I know the practice in the past has been to take the half carcass, from the spine round to the