

steps may be taken by the appointment of a commission of enquiry or otherwise, to obtain such full and correct information as may enable the Government to submit to Parliament at its next session, a Bill or Bills, providing :

1st. One uniform system of weights and measures throughout the Dominion.

2nd. The purchase and maintenance at convenient places of accurate and reliable standards of length, weight and capacity, including standards for the measurement of gas.

3rd. A regular and general inspection of all weights and measures throughout the Dominion.

The hon. gentleman stated that the subject had occupied the attention of the House for some time. In 1870 a special committee was appointed to make enquiry into the subject of coins, and weights and measures throughout the Dominion. That Committee made a report which was adopted by the Senate, and after detailing certain circumstances stated that they were "of opinion that no time should be lost in establishing by law a uniform system of weights and measures throughout the Dominion. The duty of initiating legislation on a subject of such importance necessarily devolves upon the Government, and the Committee are of opinion that another session should not be allowed to pass without a measure being submitted to Parliament." Two measures were submitted to Parliament, one of which established the metric system. Another measure dealing with the general subject of weights and measures, and approaching the organization of a uniform system was also submitted, but when it came to be considered, it was not considered sufficiently perfect, and the Government accordingly withdrew it. He did not think that the country had lost anything by the withdrawal of that measure inasmuch as since that time great progress has been made in Great Britain towards establishing the best system of weights and measures. A Royal Commission had been sitting now for five years, and their measure was about complete. They had already published five voluminous reports, including also the subject of measurement of gas. The measure, however, was not yet before the Imperial Parliament, though there was no doubt it would be there during the present session. Under these circumstances it appeared to him that when the subject was considered of such importance, that it demanded the attention of a Commission composed of the most eminent men, including the Astronomer Royal, the Government in this country ought to take

time before the meeting of Parliament to prepare a measure which will satisfy the people.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that the Government would consent to the motion. The question had already occupied the attention of the Government, but there were considerable difficulties in the way arising out of the different practices in the different Provinces. A new Parliament, no doubt, would be called upon to deal with the question.

The motion was amended, at the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just, to add water metres.

#### SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time :—

Dominion Trust Company's Bill—(Hon. Mr. Aikins.)

Manitoba Insurance Company Bill—(Hon. Mr. Girard.)

Western Assurance Company Amendment Bill—(Hon. Mr. Macpherson.)

Patents of Invention Bill—(Hon. Mr. Campbell.)

Imperial Guarantee and Loan Society Bill—(Hon. Mr. Macpherson.)

#### DUAL REPRESENTATION.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill with respect to Dual Representation,

Hon. Mr. BENSON in the chair.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST moved an amendment, making the Bill applicable to all the Provinces.

Hon. Mr. BOYSFORD said that this was intended as a side wind to destroy the bill. The New Brunswick members had no desire to interfere with the other Provinces—they should be allowed to deal with the question as they should think proper.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that the intention was only to give a wider scope to the bill.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD contended that the principle embodied in the amendment was unconstitutional; the people of the Provinces in question ought first to be allowed to express their own opinions on the subject.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL, in reply to the statement that the legislation was personal, stated one of the gentlemen in the other branch who were to be affected, had elsewhere suggested the amendment which made the Bill applicable to Ontario, and actually voted for it.

The question was put and the motion lost.