

if it should happen that it remained undisturbed for five years she can make it a live deposit, and avoid publicity by taking out a dollar, and depositing it again at any time during the five years. Under such circumstances as this, one could scarcely imagine that there ever would be a case of hardship of that kind; and surely we must not deprive the public of the great advantages that I think will be derived from this clause in its present form, by making provision for cases of such infrequent occurrence and involving such unusual circumstances as to be almost impossible.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—What is wrong with the suggestion to make the publication in ten years instead of five?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Ten years is too long. Why should people be deprived of the use of their money for five years more if they are reasonably entitled to have it!

The clause was agreed to.

On clause 36,—

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—The returns required by the Government under this clause are made by the officers of the bank, and signed, as a matter of course, by the president, vice-president or directors. Here we have a provision that every president, or vice-president, who signs or approves false returns shall be held to have wilfully made such false statement. It is perfectly clear that the president, vice-president or director who signs a report of that kind under this clause must thereby incur a certain amount of responsibility, and there ought to be some kind of qualifying adverb, such as wilfully or knowingly, put to it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is the law at present.

The clause was agreed to.

HON. MR. McCALLUM, from the committee, reported the Bill with certain amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

The Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

## GAS INSPECTION BILL.

### IN COMMITTEE.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (137) "An Act to

amend the Gas Inspection Act, chap. 101 of the Revised Statutes."

(In the Committee.)

On the 1st clause,—

HON. MR. CLEMOW—There is a slight amendment required to this clause, in the 18th line. According to this clause a gas company could be compelled to run a line of main three or four miles to a testing place.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not know whether we have any reason to suppose that in selecting a proper place for a testing place the Minister is likely to put my hon. friend to such great expense.

HON. MR. CLEMOW—There are lines of main through every city where the inspector could have his testing place convenient to it; but an inspector might under this law compel a main to be laid a long distance, and put the company to unnecessary expense. I would like to amend the clause to confine the testing place to within a certain distance of the line of main.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I have no objection if my hon. friend would name a distance, say within a hundred yards from the line of main. We will allow the clause to stand until Monday, and in the meantime I will consult my colleagues on the subject.

HON. MR. POWER—The first clause makes the expression "gas" include natural as well as manufactured gas. It appears to me that there are a great many provisions in the Bill that are not applicable to natural gas.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I talked it over with the Minister, and he concluded that there was nothing in the Bill applicable to manufactured gas that should not be applicable to natural gas, where it is possible to apply it.

HON. MR. POWER—I see that sub-clause 2 provides that until connections with the testing place or places have been made to the satisfaction of the inspector, the selling of gas shall be illegal, and shall subject the undertaker to a penalty of \$50 for each and every day during which illegal selling takes place.

HON. MR. CLEMOW—We expect a reasonable interpretation of all these