

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL also submitted an amendment to render the language of the bill clearer in regard to the liability of the Crown in case of improper or mistaken detention of vessels. Recourse would be had against the Minister of Marine.

Amendments concurred in, and bill read a third time.

GAS AND METERS BILL.

House in committee,

Hon. Mr. RYAN in a few facetious remarks, recommended an increase of the standard of light, as regards Halifax, Montreal and Toronto. The change for Montreal should be 16 candles instead of 14, and for Toronto 14 instead of 12. Any less illuminating power of gas was inadequate. If Toronto chose to remain in comparative obscurity after this (laughter), it was her own fault. Montreal, at least desired ample light. If a higher standard were fixed for the West, it would encourage the Nova Scotia coal trade, that coal being a better gas producer than the Cleveland, consumed in Ontario. He could not understand why Halifax, in the vicinity of the coal beds, should be content with light of twelve candle power.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said the Cleveland coal did not produce so much gas as the Nova Scotia, and they did not require so much light in the West as in other places. (Laughter.) He presumed the difference in the standards prescribed was due to the difference in the coals. Halifax was content with the twelve candle standard. The only reason for requiring a higher one for Quebec was that the coal used there produced more gas than that burned in the West. The bill had been thoroughly considered in the other House.

The bill was reported with several amendments.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS moved the second reading of the bill to make grants of land to original settlers in Manitoba. He explained that the beneficiaries were to be those who went there between 1813 and 1835, known as Lord Selkirk's settlers, who were to be treated the same as the half-breeds, getting 140 acres each. This was deemed but just to those old and deserving settlers.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD urged equal justice to French Canadian settlers, who had long lived there, and helped to found the colony. Let all these claims be now settled, and avoid future discontent and trouble. He moved an amendment to include the French Canadians.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST

supported it, advocating a settlement of all these claims at once.

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND admitted the claims of certain French Canadians, but stated they could be dealt with afterwards. The present grants should not be reduced by the addition of a large number of new names.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS, after considerable discussion justified, the conduct of the Government in not dealing with more than the present cases, by the action of the Manitoba Legislature itself, the session before last, which embraced only the Selkirk settlers. The subsequent action of that Legislature, last session, came too late to influence the present bill. He would, however, represent these fresh claims to his colleagues, with a view to the object advocated by hon. gentlemen. The present grant could not be halved or reduced in the way proposed by the Senate.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD, on this understanding, withdrew his amendment, and the bill was reported without amendment.

The House then adjourned till Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, May 21.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

The Act to incorporate the Pictou Bank was read a third time.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I think the House will allow me to state as briefly as I can my reasons for putting these enquiries to the Government. The Pacific Railway Company is so closely connected with the Government of this country that it is impossible to look upon their transactions as the transactions of a private Company. They partake very much more of the nature of the transactions of the Government, or at all events, of transactions for which the country and the Government are responsible, morally at least. Now, hon. gentlemen, in this prospectus of the Canada Pacific Company, I find the very first statement after naming the directors, which in effect, is naming the Company, for it consists of the Directors, and the Directors only, so far as we know, and I think I am quite safe in saying that, if it consisted of any additional members, we should have had the information before us, for we asked for it very early this session; inasmuch as it is not before us, I am justified in assuming the Company consists exclusively of the Directors, thirteen