

Mr. Jenkins himself, that he was opposed to granting the concessions to Canada, which she asked for, and which would be secured by the bill. I am quite aware of the different bills which emanated from official sources in England; and, indeed, have copies of some of them, but unfortunately nothing practical in regard to them has yet been done. Bills will come, and bills will go, but the disability remains, I am afraid forever. (Laughter.) My only object in introducing this question, and in making the remarks which have fallen from me, was to induce the Government to take strenuous and immediate action in this matter. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said, I simply rise to impress on the Government the importance of endeavoring to procure the assent of the Crown to legislate in this country. The legislation, or views formed in the Imperial Parliament on this subject, it seems to me—I speak with great deference to the views of legal gentlemen—are adverse to the rights given to this country, which included legislation with regard to all matters concerning the weal of the people. The view taken by the Imperial Government is, or was, that copy right remains a subject for legislation, exclusively by the Imperial Parliament, not only in reference to Great Britain and Ireland, but to all the colonies. When this bill was sent home it was urged by the then Government, that that was not the legal view of the Parliament of this country as to the powers of the British Parliament, but that the right to legislate on copy right, as well as all other subjects, was given to this Legislature by the constitution, and that the bill we had passed was in strict conformity with our powers and position, and that we ought to be allowed to legislate on the subject. I hope the present Government will not lose sight of this matter, but will endeavour, as the last did, to assert and maintain the rights of the Parliament of the people of this country.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—I rise to support as strongly as I can the proposition of the hon. gentleman beside me (Mr. Ryan)—that the Government should assist in every way in their power the demand of the people of this country for the privileges which this Copyright Act confer on them. I think no conflict of interests need arise under it, but that publishers and authors could arrange the matters of their respective right among themselves, without hurting anyone. So far as the British Government is concerned, they have taken the

view that copyright is a thing they should protect on account of the piracies so common all over the world; and if this bill was an attempt at this offence, or designed to encourage it, I should be the last person to give it any support. As I understand, it leaves the matter of republishing between the Canadian printer and British author, and they are the parties who should deal with it. There is one other point I wish to notice, and that is as to the English agencies. I never understood that Mr. Rose was an agent of these Provinces, in London. If he was, his was an appointment not made public. If he was what is called by the French an officious agent, instead of an official agent, I hope we shall still have the advantages of his friendly services. As to the present agent, Mr. Jenkins, whatever his own views may be, he must make them subservient and subordinate to those of the Government which he represents; he must set forth only our opinions. Whether his own be reasonable or unreasonable, it seems to me they can't possibly interfere with his action as the agent of this Government, at least they should not be allowed to do so. I am glad to hear that the hon. gentleman from Kingston (Mr. Campbell) is now so ready to support the desire of this country to legislate for itself without reference to the British Government.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—I introduced this very bill.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—Well, I think there are some historical events to show that interference on the part of the British Government has taken place, with far less constitutional warrant. As to the views of the British Government on these matters, I think that acts have been disallowed on the opinions of the Crown officers as individual lawyers without remonstrance from the late Government, and this seems to me to have less constitutional warrant than the failure to assent to the law.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—I shall be very glad to defend the course of the late Government with regard to any of its acts, when they come up in proper time.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN enquired whether it was the intention of the Government to repair and finish the breakwater at Tiguish, Prince Edward Island, this year, in accordance with the report of Mr. Perley, Civil Engineer of the Public Works Department?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT replied the subject was brought under the attention of the Min-