

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said he would not oppose the second reading, but he called attention to the wording of the second clause. There might be acquired rights between the time the patent lapsed and its restoration by this Bill. This second clause should be so worded as to ensure that the rights and privileges of third parties should not be interfered with.

The Bill was read the second time and referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

To grant to the Canada Landed Credit Company enlarged powers of borrowing and lending, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

To amend the Act 38 Victoria, Chapter 93, intituled: "An Act to incorporate the Canadian Gas Lighting Company."

To amend the Act incorporating the Canada Shipping Company.

To amend the Act intituled: "An Act to incorporate the Clifton Suspension Bridge Company."

THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

The debate being resumed on Mr. Orton's motion for the appointment of a Select Committee regarding the agricultural interests of the Dominion.

Mr. WALLACE (Norfolk) stated, that it had been said that the farmers did not require protection. He had the honour to represent a farming constituency, and he knew that in it there was a very strong feeling against the existing state of things. The farmers held that it was most unjust that they should pay taxes on almost everything they consume, while respecting all they produce they were compelled to enter into competition with the whole world; also that it was highly unfair that American produce should be permitted to enter Canada free of duty, while our Canadian produce must pay duties ranging from 15 to 20 per cent. and even above the latter figure. These anomalies should be remedied. The Premier and some of his supporters declared that the agriculturists were perfectly content, but he knew from

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his experience in his neighbourhood, that anything except content existed amongst them. It was represented that there was no distress among the farming population. It was true that there was much individual wealth; but an examination of the registry offices would disclose a very large number of mortgages on farm properties, which were daily fyled. Their property was not as remunerative as it ought to be and this was one of the evils with which they contended. They had raised to too great an extent wheat and other crops, for which they could readily obtain gold, reducing inordinately the producing power of their lands. A proper rotation of crops was not followed, else they would be more prosperous than they were to-day. The mass of the farmers were Free-Traders, but they were beginning to understand that free imports did not mean free-trade. He knew that in his own and the adjoining Riding a very strong feeling existed among the farmers in favor of protection to manufactures, as these furnished a home market for products either of so little value as not to bear transportation to distant markets, or so perishable in their nature that they could not be shipped, when time was one of the essentials to this end. He believed the farmers were being convinced that one of the great reasons for their increased prosperity since 1867, was due to the establishment of manufactures in the country; and they were perfectly willing to bear their share of taxation in order to build up a home market; but they were not willing to do so while the Americans enjoyed the same position as themselves in their own market, and they were in a great measure excluded from the American markets owing to the heavy duties levied. Many members had, at the last election, carried agricultural constituencies almost by false pretences, as they did not dare to appear before the electors as upholders of the present state of things; and he was confident that when these hon. gentlemen again went to the polls, unless they changed their tone they would be left at home. The farmers remembered that they were prosperous when no Reciprocity Treaty was in existence, and while they were not unde-