

that the Bill could go before a Committee to determine whether there was really any reason why further indulgence should not be given. In this case there was absolutely nothing except the assertion of the patentee that he believed it to be in the public interest that his patent should be continued in himself. He (Mr. Mackenzie) did not think it was in the public interest. The patentee had obtained the full award which the law allowed, and it was not desirable to introduce a system to allow in special cases an extension of the time which the law contemplated. There had been no instance of such a Bill obtaining the sanction of Parliament since the organization of the Dominion. There was nothing in it which would justify them in setting aside the wise provisions of the law. If it were allowed to pass, a dangerous precedent would be established which would apply to every possible case; therefore, he must ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw it.

MR. CASGRAIN said he thought this Bill might have been entitled to go to a Committee, at least, under the law which guided the House in these matters. He had been struck at first with the same idea which had been stated by the hon. the Premier, that this Bill ought not to obtain a second reading. But, as there was a matter of fact involved in the preamble of the Bill, he thought that it might have had a chance of going before the Committee, and he desired to lay before the House the reasons which induced him to introduce this Bill. He concurred entirely with the principle asserted by the hon. the Premier, that patents in general ought not to be extended. But, in this particular case, he was of opinion that a Bill of this description, far from being against the interests of the public, by extending the right of the patentee, was, on the contrary, a protection to the public, and that was the only ground upon which he thought that the Bill might be brought before the House and carried. As to the right of extending the power of a patent, this was recognized not only in Canadian legislation, but had been recognized also, and was recognized to-day, in Great

Britain and in France. From a work which he had before him on letters patent, he could quote a number of precedents which took place, even in England, in which patentees had been granted an extension of the time allowed for their patents. It was well known that in England to-day the power was conferred on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, exactly as Parliament would do in the same case. He would cite, in order to maintain his views, a number of cases which had occurred, all of which were founded on public utility. And in this very case, he thought the public interests would be advanced in keeping this patent within the control of a private individual, and in order to prevent the counterfeiting of bank notes, an extension of time ought to be granted either to the patentee or to some other person, or to the Government itself, in order that security might be afforded against counterfeiting bank notes in this country. It was well known that in England and France, the Government had entire control of the paper on which these notes were printed, thereby preventing counterfeiting. In the Province which he had the honour of representing there was such confidence placed in our bank note system that there was hardly any counterfeiting at all, and, therefore, all the farmers and men of business took these notes in circulation, because they accepted them as *bond fide* genuine notes; whereas, in the United States, the shin-plasters, as they were called, were so spurious, and there were so many counterfeits of them, that the counterfeits passed current in the market quite as well as good notes; it was not worth while examining whether they were genuine or not. If this patent could be secured in such a way as to prove a benefit, it would, instead of being against the principle advocated by the hon. the Premier, assert that principle itself. It would be an advantage to the public to have this patent secured. It would certainly be a privilege granted to a particular individual, and might be looked upon as a monopoly to a certain extent, but it was not a monopoly. Though he was prepared to use all his efforts to carry the Bill, yet

MR. MACKENZIE.