

HON. MR. POWER—There is everything to be considered. It was discussed at some length in the other House and there is a good deal to be said about it. I am not offering any opposition to the Bill, I simply ask that the third reading be allowed to stand over for half an hour until we have an opportunity to read the Bill.

The Bill was read the second time.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

The following Bill from the House of Commons was introduced and read the first time :—

Bill (178), "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June 1882, and 30th June, 1883, and for other purposes relating to the public service."

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I regret very much when a bill of this nature comes up for a second reading that we have not the assistance of the hon. Speaker on the floor of the House. I have not been in the habit of investigating very closely the question of supply. I have never had the honor of holding a seat in the other branch of the Legislature; in this House we have passed these Bills without very much discussion, and I must confess I am not prepared to enter into any details in connection with the Bill. It is the Bill to supply Her Majesty for the current year and next year, and I move that it be now read the second time.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the third reading.

HON. MR. SCOTT—This is legislating at the rate of how many millions of dollars a minute?

HON. MR. POWER—How many millions of dollars does the supply amount to?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I have not read the Bill.

HON. MR. POWER—I think it would have been better if His Honor the Speaker had explained briefly the character of the Bill and the amount we are asked to vote.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—We are not asked to vote anything. They have voted it in the other House. The amount, under schedule A, is \$2,185,799; under schedule B, \$33,365,754.

HON. MR. POWER—I wish to say before the Bill passes finally that I think His Honor the Speaker could speak very feelingly on this subject, because I have a recollection that in 1878, when we were voting a supply Bill \$6,000,000 less than we are voting now, the hon. gentleman who now fills the chair thought we were rushing headlong into an abyss of debt and ruin. The population of this country is not very much greater now than it was then, and the resources of the country are not very much greater; and though we happen to have a little transient prosperity at present we are not justified in squandering millions of dollars to-day on that account. I regret that time does not allow the House to consider the utterances of the hon. gentleman in 1878; and look at what, as member of the Government, he is party to to-day.

THE SPEAKER (descending from the chair)—I do not think it is necessary for me to discuss this Bill, although as a member of the Cabinet, I am responsible for its contents. When I was in a position to criticise the expenditure of the Ministry I felt myself justified in doing so. The condition of the country to-day is very different from what it was then. We are now enjoying a state of unexampled prosperity, and when the revenues are abundant, and there are demands made on the Government for necessary public expenditures, the Government would be wrong in refusing them. The circumstances were very different at the time the hon. gentleman speaks of and I shall not recall them now; it would be improper to do so. All that I feel called upon to say is what I have already said. I congratulate the House and the country on the very great change that has taken