one to confer with the other. That is what this order in council is, and that is all it is. After reciting the proposition of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company to purchase these lands, it proceeds:

The minister further submits that if the Indians are asked to surrender this land to be sold for their benefit to the Grand Trunk Railway Company, the province will not be asked to give them land in lieu thereof, and it is further considered that as it will be in the public interest of the Dominion, as well as of the province that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company should be allowed to acquire this land for terminal purposes, thereby affording a great benefit both to the Dominion and the province generally, as well as enhancing the value of the lands adjacent thereto and in the vicinity thereof, and of the remaining portion of the reserve (comprising an area of about 16,000 acres) to such an extent as to realize a sum equal to or greater than the present values of the reserve as now constituted, the province should be willing to waive any interest it may claim in the land applied for.

And, therefore, what?

The minister therefore recommends that a copy of this minute be communicated through the Secretary of State to the government of British Columbia, with a view of obtaining at the earliest possible date the consent of that government to its waiving any reversionary interest the province may claim to have in the land of which it is proposed to obtain a surrender.

And that is the whole of the order in council. It was nothing more or less than this, —that this government advised His Excellency to send that paper to the constituted authorities of the province of British Columbia, pointing out to them the bargain that was proposed, and pointing out that as it would be of substantial advantage to them in increasing the value of their adjoining lands, they might, if they thought fit, waive any future claim which, in two or three thousand years, they might possibly have if all the Indians in the province died out. Under these circumstances, it does seem a most ridiculous and absurd thing; it does seem one of the most marked cases of endeavouring to make political capital at a particular moment for the benefit of political friends to have a transaction of this sort brought before this House by way of amendment, so to speak, of the motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means and this House and this country solemnly treated to three hours of a debate on this 'all important' question in which we are given to understand the gravest constitutional issues are involved. If anything could more distinctly even than this show the narrow distinction between the sublime and the ridiculous it would be the contrast between, not merely the speeches which have been delivered by different gentlemen on the other side of the House, but for that matter between the different parts of the same speeches delivered by these gentlemen on this subject.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. As I did not happen to be in the House yesterday when the duty on spirits was discussed, I would take this opportunity of bringing up a matter of considerable interest to the country and of getting some information from the Minister of Customs. I would ask the minister whether we have not in force to-day a Compounder's Act in regard to the bottling of native spirits with the imported article, and also whether that law in regard to that compounding is being enforced, for I have a statement here to the following effect:

That there are several wholesale wine merchants throughout Canada bottling Scotch, Irish, brandy, rum, gin, &c., using Canadian spirit flavoured with foreign, also using imitation French, Irish and Scotch labels, capsules and cases, selling the same to the trade as if they were the genuine imported article. In addition to the above they are bottling it from 30 to 40 degrees under proof and in most cases the case does not contain more than one and a half liquid gallons.

The Minister of Customs amended the tariff in the year 1904, August 10, to prohibit the sale of import liquors only as follows: 12 bottles, two gallons; 12 Imperial quarts, three gallons; 24 Imperial pints, three gallons; 24 flasks, two gallons; 48 half flasks containing two gallons would have to pay duty on four gallons, still he allows these unscrupulous dealers to palm off on the public these imitation and these fraudulent sized bottles at thousands of dollars loss to the country in revenue.

The duty on the genuine article is $2.40 per proof gallon and on the domestic spirit used in these fraudulent goods the duty is $1.14 per gallon, the loss to the country on every gallon of these goods bottled is $1.26. As I understand the Compounder's Act is as follows: Every dealer who bottles or mixes a foreign spirit with a Canadian spirit is entitled to take out a compounder's license, and he is also obliged to bottle these goods with the word 'compounded' written across the face of the label in conspicuous coloured ink. In addition to this the labels must read as follows: 'and bottled by so and so,' naming the place of business, then the uneducated man can easily observe what he is purchasing.

As the trade is to-day there are several unscrupulous dealers in all parts of the Dominion not complying with the Compounder's Act, and you do not have to go out of the city of Ottawa to see this in an open handed manner. There is one firm operating in Toronto who are doing an extensive business and in Montreal there are three or four firms who have grown immensely wealthy bottling this class of goods and palming it off on the public as if it were the imported article. If the Canadian spirit cannot be sold only under the disguise of a bogus imported label, then it is time for this government to enforce the Compounder's Act or advance the Canadian spirit to $2.40 per proof gallon, the same as they