

agreed to leave it to the government. I have not asked my colleagues what their verdict would be on this point, but the two parties were contesting that particular question, whether it would be legal to import into Canada gold of less than 10 carats, a very large number of men maintaining that nine carats was the quality most in demand in Canada, and that dispute has kept the Bill back. They have now made a compromise, and it is important to have the Bill put through, because it is alleged that the United States, in consequence of the dull condition of trade there, is inundating Canada with an inferior manufacture of both gold and silver. Their trade is dull at the present moment, and our manufacturers are complaining that they are being undersold by inferior goods, and they desire to have this Bill passed this session in order to protect their trade. I hope the Senate will allow the measure to go through.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What has the government decided on?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not know. I was one of those who advocated 10 carats. The hon. gentleman from Beamsville put a Bill through this House a year or two ago fixing the standard at nine carats.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—No, ten.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That was not carried.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, it did not go through the Commons. The first Bill was not to go into operation until it was proclaimed. Then we passed a Bill, in the beginning of the session, that the former Act should not go into operation until the first day of next session. Now we will allow a Bill to pass which has the sanction of both sides, and it is in view of the fact that they are forced now to come to an agreement, because the advocates of both the nine and ten carat standards are suffering from inferior goods that are dumped into Canada from the United States, and they say: 'Give us any Bill that will protect our interests.'

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Have they agreed on nine or ten carats?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Both sides said that they were willing to take it either way

now. Deputations called on me and stated that they were willing that the government should make it nine or ten carats.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—What is in the Bill?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not know.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It seems to me an extraordinary thing to introduce a Bill on a controversial question, leaving the controversy open. The government may be as much at sea in agreeing between themselves as the rival manufacturers were. I would suggest the judgment of Solomon, to make it nine and a half.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I would be quite willing to leave it to the Senate to decide when it comes up. We devoted fully a month to the measure last year, and we heard evidence from all parts of the country, and had petitions read, and the parties could not agree, but we passed the Bill, and I think it was ten carats then.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And then next year my hon. friend from Beamsville introduced a Bill in this House fixing it at nine carats, and I did not oppose it, because the feeling seemed to be in favour of letting it go at that, and so it went down to the other Chamber, and it was held up there, and the time for the Bill to go into operation was extended a full year. As it stands now, that Bill does not come into operation for another year. The Bill we propose to submit at the present time would supersede that, and I have no objection to leave it to the Senate to say whether the standard should be nine or ten carats.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that there had been a conference between the retailers and manufacturers, and that they had agreed upon it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, they agreed upon all points except the question of nine or ten carats, and they agreed to leave that to the government, and I presume they would with equal confidence leave it to the Senate. They said: 'Give us a Bill in any shape, because our trade is suffering