

tions take place the party is never punished?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is mistaken.

HON. MR. POWER—Whatever the practice may be in this part of the country, in the lower Provinces I have not heard of a single case where any seller of an adulterated article has been prosecuted for contravention of the Act.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I can speak for my own Province, and I can assure my hon. friend that there have been repeated prosecutions for adulteration there. I do not know what the statistics of prosecutions in other Provinces are, but I know that in the city of Montreal there are many prosecutions under the Act. What the Government are doing is to so amend the law as to make the conviction of offenders against it sure. There seems to be an unaccountable disposition on the part of magistrates to let off those parties. Probably it is because adulterations are so common, or it is because tradesmen are supposed not to know much about them; but the attention of the Department is more and more directed to this particular subject, with a view of endeavoring to make this system effective. I omitted to mention, with regard to a standard for milk, that I was unable to see the Minister to-day, owing to his being occupied in departmental business, but before the Bill comes up for the third reading I shall be able to give my hon. friend an answer.

HON. MR. REESOR—I beg to call the attention of the hon. member to the fact that a great many parties have been let off, because the goods sold were adulterated before they reached them—so far as the evidence went, they did not know that the goods were adulterated. It would be a great hardship for a man to be fined in a case of that kind for adulterating goods. The Act has accomplished a great deal of good, by putting dealers more on their guard against introducing adulterated articles than before, and the public are more on the watch to see that the goods they buy are what they are represented to be.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend will perceive that the plea which he says

has been put forth, and which defendants are entitled to, and on which they are acquitted, must be a *bonâ fide* plea; but the fact is, that most of the dealers—and this is one of the difficulties it is almost impossible to get over—most of the dealers in articles usually adulterated must know whether they are adulterated or not, not because they have adulterated them, or examined them, but they know from the price at which they buy and sell. When they sell a box of coffee below a certain price they know whether it is all coffee or not; but it cannot be said that they have any special knowledge of it. They take it in good faith as being coffee, and sell it as coffee, just as they get it, and it is very hard before a judicial tribunal to say: "You must know, being a skilled grocer, that there was chicory in that coffee." That is one of the great difficulties, and I do not know how it is going to be got over, about articles sold by tradesmen.

HON. MR. REESOR—A great many grocers sell coffee openly as a mixture of coffee and chicory.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—They are bound to describe it in that way now.

HON. MR. REESOR—So far, I don't know that they are necessarily to blame. Parties want cheap articles, and buy them adulterated; other dealers sell the article in a pure state and grind it before the purchaser.

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

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (89) "An Act to amend the Act incorporating the River Detroit Winter Railway Bridge Company, and to change the name of the Company to the River Detroit Railway Bridge Company." (Mr. McKindsey.)

Bill (91) "An Act to grant certain powers to the Chambly Manufacturing Company." (Mr. Peltier.)

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 p. m.