

no doubt in this House in the same direction, so that, as stated by the hon. gentleman opposite, they entirely approve of the principle of the Bill.

HON. MR. POWER—I think it is very important that the House should be informed as to what the English law is. There is no country in the world whose commerce is as important as that of England, and there is no country where the authorities are more careful as to the liberty of the subject than they are in England. If in England they have found that such a provision as this is undesirable, that ought to be sufficient reason for our waiting until next Session to give the subject matter of this appeal further consideration. The hon. gentleman has stated that there were strong representations from certain parties, but since this Bill got out, and got into the hands of people representing the shipping interest, strong representations came from them on their side, and I really doubt whether we are in a position now to weigh the balance nicely between the conflicting interests. There is another aspect of the matter which has not been suggested by any hon. gentleman, and which has probably not suggested itself to the Government. Section 118 of the Merchant's Shipping Act does not merely apply to a case of where a seaman has been convicted, but applies to all cases of convictions or orders made under the Act.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Certainly.

HON. MR. POWER—If hon. gentlemen will look over the Act they will find that the offences are enticing to desert, and harboring deserters. There are orders made with respect to seamen's wages and different provisions for the protection of seamen from imposition; provisions as to the health and accommodation of seamen; a provision against leaving seamen abroad. Every proceeding under the Act, I take it, is either a conviction or an order. While we may be helping the seamen, or suppose we are helping seamen on the one hand, we may be doing serious mischief on the other, because, supposing a seaman gets an order for his wages or gets an order for the payment of a sum of money, or secures a conviction against a master for ill-treatment, you are going to allow the party who was convicted, or the party against whom

the order was made, to compel that seaman to wait and put him to expense and delay, and I think that is an additional reason why the Government should consider this Bill. We have been a commercial people for a good many years, and we have succeeded in getting along without this measure, and I do not think that any grievous injury would result if it stood over for another Session.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—If my hon. friend imagines that I pleaded for the passing of this Bill in the interests of any particular class he is mistaken. A free British subject ought not to be liable to imprisonment and punishment, especially on conviction by magistrates who are not specially instructed in their functions, without a remedy of some sort or other. My hon. friend will see that the provision I have introduced takes the sting out of the case he refers to. Unless the master can go before a judge and show that the magistrate's decision is *primâ facie* wrong, then the judge will order a stay of *certiorari* until it is proved.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I think that the amendment proposed will, to a large extent, meet the objection raised by the hon. gentleman from Kennebec, or the party from whom that telegram came. It is provided there that it shall be in the discretion of the judge, on special cause being shown on affidavit.

The amendment was agreed to.

HON. MR. CLEWOW, from the committee, reported the Bill with an amendment.

The report was received.

THE LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

REPORT ADOPTED.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE moved the adoption of the Second Report of the Joint Committee of both Houses on the Library of Parliament. He said: Hon. gentlemen will see by the report what has been done this year by the Library. One of the principal works of the committee has been done by the Select Committee upon Exchanges. In some cases we purchase works published in Canada for the purpose of exchanging with public libraries in other parts of the world. Besides that, we effect considerable exchanges of Parlia-