

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am pleased to be able to say that, so far as the principles of the law are concerned, this Bill harmonizes the laws throughout the whole Dominion. There may be some slight difference in the Quebec law as to the exigencies for presentments and protests, but it is only in matters of detail, matters of procedure, and does not affect the principles of the law.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I may say, in reply to my hon. friend from Charlotte-town, that the only reason I postponed the motion of which I gave notice was in order that we might make more rapid progress with the business of the House. Several gentlemen expressed a wish to get home, and I thought that the motion might be allowed to stand until to-day. A similar anxiety is manifested to-day, and as nothing can be lost by postponing the motion, I am willing to let it stand over until after the holidays.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I hope that the hon. gentleman who leads the House will, on the resumption of business here, feel himself in a position to give the House some information with regard to the state of negotiations between the British and the American Governments on the Behring Sea question. It may be in the hon. gentleman's recollection that the subject was alluded to at the opening of the Session, and I think then he expressed the hope that he would be in a position to give further information before the House rose. I only hope that the hon. gentleman will be able to do so when we meet after the holidays.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned at 4 o'clock.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, April 9th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 8:30 p.m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PUBLIC LANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Whole on Bill (W) "An Act respecting Grants of Public Lands."

(In the Committee.)

On the 1st clause.—

HON. MR. SCOTT asked for an explanation.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I had the honor of informing hon. gentlemen of the purposes of the Bill on the second reading, but I shall be happy to repeat the explanation. This is a Bill for the purpose of harmonizing the system of grants with the Torrens system of conveyance, and for no other purpose. I am afraid, not being a lawyer under the common law, that I cannot explain accurately the precise effect of the change, but I understand it to be something like this: In ordinary letters patent property is conveyed by the Crown to the grantee and his heirs; under the Torrens system, as I understand, the land does not pass to the heirs of the deceased in case of transmission by death, but to the executors, and this Act is intended to harmonize the system so that the grant in the letters patent, which would not, under the common law, be a grant in fee, is made a grant equivalent to a grant in fee to harmonize with the Torrens system.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The reason I asked for an explanation is that the Bill applies to Ontario. Now, the Torrens system is not in force in Ontario, except in a small area of it, but it is in force in the North-West.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am unable to inform my hon. friend why it is made to apply generally to Ontario.

HON. MR. SCOTT—For Manitoba and the North-West Territories it is all right enough.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It would be all right also in those parts of Ontario which are under the Torrens system. Whether there is any objection to having the Bill apply to Ontario generally I do not know, not being familiar with the laws of this Province.

HON. MR. POWER—It appears to me that this Parliament has no power to deal with the public lands of Ontario.

HON. MR. SCOTT—There are Indian lands in Ontario.

HON. MR. POWER—I quite see the objection taken by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa. The Torrens system is not