

half-way. His hon. friend from Grandville had admitted to some exceptional legislation introduced by himself (Mr. Ross) in favour of Henry Bissman for an improved process of manufacturing wire and steel. Mr. Bissman was an Englishman, not an American, and he had passed the Act to give him a patent upon the understanding that manufactures would be established that would develop our large mines of iron ore, but the whole thing had fallen through, and nothing had been done in this direction, as he (Mr. Ross) had hoped would have been the case. He hinted that the Bill before the Senate would pass in its present shape without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Campbell desired to make one or two remarks upon the Bill at its second reading, more particularly in connection with the changes made in the Bill consequent upon the amendments made last session when it was before Parliament. He thought, that notwithstanding the opinions expressed to the contrary in the House, and the views occasionally expressed by others who were not members of Parliament, the general opinion of the country and Parliament is in favour of the existence of a patent law. If this view was correct it devolved upon the Government to prepare a patent law for the whole Dominion which would have the effect of assimilating the various laws now in force in the different Provinces. It was also thought to be the duty of the Government to make that measure as liberal as possible. In accordance with these views they had liberalized the patent law of Canada in very important points. In the old law the person applying for a patent had not only to be a British subject, but a resident of Canada. The present law was improved in this particular, but not to the extent suggested by his hon. friend from Wellington Division (Mr. Sanborn) for reasons which were indicated by his hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Ross.) It was not prepared in its present form for the interest of corporations or individuals, but for the benefit of the Dominion and those interests which it was thought might be affected hereafter when reciprocity and the navigation of the St. Lawrence comes to be the subject of negotiation between us and the United States, which has been pending for the last two years. As this measure would change the character of the Patent Law, it more or less embarrassed the Government in preparing this measure. He had no desire to take any step which would put us in a position where we would have less vantage ground in dealing with this subject. He had mentioned to the House that it was not in reference to any local or private interests, but to the position of the country, in view of

de fer; toute l'affaire est cependant tombée à l'eau et rien n'a été fait en ce sens, contrairement à ce qu'il (M. Ross) avait espéré. M. Ross donne à entendre que le Bill dont le Sénat est saisi sera adopté sans modification.

L'honorable M. Campbell veut faire une ou deux observations lors de la deuxième lecture du Bill, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les modifications apportées à la suite des amendements de la dernière session. Selon lui, nonobstant les opinions contraires exprimées dans la Chambre et les points de vue exprimés de temps à autre par des non-parlementaires, le pays dans son ensemble et le Parlement sont en faveur d'une législation sur les brevets. Si cela est exact, il incombe au Gouvernement de rédiger une loi sur les brevets pour l'ensemble de la Puissance, qui aurait pour effet d'intégrer les différentes lois actuellement en vigueur dans les diverses provinces. Il incombe également au Gouvernement de rendre cette mesure législative aussi libérale que possible. En conséquence, le Gouvernement a considérablement assoupli certaines dispositions vitales de la Loi sur les brevets du Canada. Aux termes de l'ancienne loi, le requérant d'un brevet devait non seulement être sujet britannique, mais encore résider au Canada. La nouvelle loi est meilleure à cet égard, mais pas autant que le suggère son honorable collègue de Wellington (M. Sanborn), pour les raisons déjà exposées par son honorable collègue de Toronto (M. Ross). La nouvelle loi n'est pas rédigée en fonction des intérêts des sociétés commerciales ou des individus, mais au profit de la Puissance et dans la perspective d'éventuelles négociations, attendues depuis deux ans, entre le Canada et les États-Unis sur le libre-échange et la navigation sur le Saint-Laurent. Comme cette mesure pourrait modifier la nature de la Loi sur les brevets, elle a plus ou moins gêné le Gouvernement pendant la préparation du Bill. L'honorable M. Campbell ne veut rien faire qui pourrait affaiblir notre position durant nos négociations sur le sujet. Il affirme avoir déjà dit à la Chambre que le Bill a été rédigé non pour favoriser certaines provinces ou individus mais le pays lors des prochaines négocia-