

rican patentee would take more out of the pockets of our people in one year than any of our inventors would in ten years.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE said that the American system was sustained by the means of highly salaried officers, some of whom received \$3000 a year. In that country a citizen could obtain a patent by paying into the treasury \$30 but a British subject, had to pay \$500 for the same privilege. He thought that some system of reciprocity should be established.

Hon. FINL. SECRETARY objected to the principle of taxing any branch of industry when there was no need for it. There was nothing to prevent any of our mechanics going to the United States and copying any of their improvements and bringing them down here, and if there was a case now and then where important chemical secrets could be employed in developing the resources of the country—as in the case of gold amalgamating, it would be a sufficient reason for the House to depart from its usual policy and give the required privileges.

Mr. TOBIN said that this Bill would open aside the door to every patentee of every possible invention to come in. Any one who visited the patent office, at Washington, would find it more like a museum than anything else. If a person invented a new handle to a hammer he would take out a patent for it, and so it would be here if this bill was passed. In Canada the subject was pretty much in the same position as in this country, and he would read a clause of a bill introduced into the Parliament there, which he thought would meet the views of his hon'ble colleague.—The hon. gentlemen read the clause of the Canadian act.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said that it was almost useless alluding to the moral aspect of the question, as it seemed to be the established policy of the country, to pillage everything that could be got from the brains of the inventor.—This he did not consider the right policy. If any one looked abroad at the great manufacturing countries of the world, they would find mechanical and scientific inventors encouraged and fostered. Last summer he had travelled in the western states and upon one occasion he met an intelligent farmer whom he questioned upon the subject of the difficulty of getting farm laborers in consequence of the war but he was told that no inconvenience was experienced as nearly everything was done by machinery. That was one great cause of the prosperity of all branches of industry in that country. Instead of being afraid of these inventions being introduced, he thought that we should encourage them in every possible way; and the result would be that the people would be largely benefitted. There was no doubt that there were important secrets in connection with gold amalgamating which were unknown to our people, and which it was of the utmost importance they should obtain. By the present restrictive system we were acting the "dog in the manger" policy, and would neither take advantage of these advantages ourselves nor allow any body else to do so.

Hon. ATT. GEN. said he thought he was correct when he stated that they had passed a law in the United States, allowing foreigners to come in on the same terms as citizens, when the same privileges were granted to American

citizens. The hon. gentleman read the law to that effect. This was a subject that required great consideration, and he thought that a committee should go out and report upon the whole subject. He was not disposed to look upon it in a narrow spirit, but he thought care should be taken to guard against old patents being taken out and introduced as new ones.

After some further remarks, the subject was referred to a special committee, consisting of the hon. Attorney General, Killam, Tobin, Shannon, Archibald, Blanchard and LeVesconte.

PETITION.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL presented a petition from the Postmaster at Sherbrooke, praying for an increase of salary.

THE REGISTRATION ACT.

Mr. BLANCHARD asked the government to lay on the table a return showing what steps have been taken to carry into operation the act passed in 1864 for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and of all payments made thereunder for salaries of officers and other expenses; also, whether any officer has been appointed or is now engaged in carrying out the requirements of said statute, and the correspondence relating to such appointment, with the principal officer's report on the subject.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

Mr. BLANCHARD introduced a bill to amend chap. 154, Rev. Stat.—Of the limitation of actions.

The PRO. SEC. announced that his Excellency the Lieut. Governor would attend at the Council Chamber at half-past 2 o'clock the next day, to assent to a number of bills.

The hon. gentleman called attention to the advisability of the various committees proceeding with their work.

The list was called over.

Mr. TOBIN enquired whether there was any probability of the railway depot being brought into the city; if not, something ought to be done to improve the station buildings at Richmond.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that it was originally intended that the depot should be brought nearer to town, and these buildings were only intended for a temporary purpose. Hence it had never been thought advisable to spend much money upon them. How far the position of affairs would be affected by the prospect of the Intercolonial road, or of connection with the European and North American road, he was not prepared to say at present, but there was no immediate intention to change the depot.

Mr. DONALD FRASER presented a petition for aid for a packet between Pictou and Prince Edward Island; also one relating to disputed claims for Crown Lands.

Mr. MILLER enquired when it was proposed to take up the second reading of the school bill.

After some conversation it was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

Then the house adjourned until the next day at 2 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 8th March.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

ENQUIRY.

Mr. BOURINOT asked the government to lay on the table of the house the annual returns