

Hansard. The fact is, in short, that the stenographer who was employed to take down the evidence in French has refused, and still refuses, to furnish a copy of that evidence to the Government, and they have never had it and cannot get it. They have no means of compelling him to furnish it. It is not a question of money; he will not accept the money and do it—he simply refuses. I understand there is some political reason for this refusal which it is not necessary for me to go into now, but such is the fact—he positively refuses to furnish the Government with the evidence in French which he took down in shorthand writing. The English evidence forms only a short portion of the evidence taken, and that can be brought down if my hon. friend wants it; but it would be imperfect without the French evidence, and the French evidence it is impossible to get.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Will my hon. friend give the name of the reporter?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—He is a member of the Local Legislature, I believe.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—The name appears in this motion of which I give notice now:

What amount has been paid to O. G. Bourbonnais, Esq., at various times, in his capacity as stenographer, for the two days during which he accompanied, in that capacity, the Honorable the Minister of Justice and the Honorable the Secretary of State to the Penitentiary of St. Vincent de Paul, on the 10th and 11th of December, 1886?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I suppose my hon. friend is aware of the facts since he puts the question. I understand that the shorthand writer refuses to take any payment—that he has been offered it repeatedly—that he has been asked to furnish a transcript of his notes, and that he refuses. I think the reason that is supposed to actuate him is something about the validity of his seat or something of that description. However, my hon. friend can put his question, and I will be able to give him a positive answer.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I said last year that the evidence would not be brought down, because the enquiry never took place.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Oh, yes; the enquiry took place.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—Give me a committee and I will prove that it did not.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (DD) “An Act to amend the Pilotage Act, Chapter 80 of the Revised Statutes.” (Mr. Abbott.)

Bill (135) “An Act to amend the Seamen's Act, Chapter 74 of the Revised Statutes.” (Mr. Abbott.)

SAVINGS BANKS IN QUEBEC BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (CC) “An Act respecting certain Savings Banks in the Province of Quebec.” He said: This Bill is simply to continue the charters of two savings banks in the Province of Quebec. It is just a continuation of the charters for ten years, with one or two very trifling alterations.

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

GAS INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (137) “An Act to amend ‘The Gas Inspection Act,’ Cap. 101 of the Revised Statutes.” He said: The main object of this Bill is to make a further provision with regard to the purity of gas. Under the law as it stands, measures are taken to prevent the admixture of sulphuretted hydrogen with gas. That gas is poisonous. The law now sufficiently provides against that, but there is not a sufficient provision in the Act at present for the prevention of the presence in gas of ammonia and sulphur. The object of this Bill is mainly to make better provision for the exclusion of these gases from gas.

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

The Senate adjourned at 4:40 p. m.