

HON. MR. McCLELAN, from the Committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

THE RAILWAY BILL.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day being called, Committee of the whole House on Bill (Z) "An Act respecting Railways."

HON. MR. ABBOTT said: This Bill has attracted quite a large amount of attention throughout the railway world of the Dominion, and the Government think that it would be advisable to give the railway people the opportunity of being heard as to the details of a Bill which makes new provisions with regard to fences, fire guards, and other matters. Of course we could not have the advantage of the skill of the railway people in the House, and therefore, with the concurrence of my colleagues, I move that the Order of the Day be discharged and that the Bill be referred to the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours.

The motion was agreed to.

INLAND REVENUE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of the Bill (133) "An Act further to amend the Act respecting the Inland Revenue, cap. 34 of the Revised Statutes." He said: This is a Bill of about eight or ten clauses which is merely drawn for the purpose of providing for some details of administration. There is no important principle of any kind in the Bill: it is simply to improve the remedies against smuggling and fraud which were already provided for by the original Bill, and which people connected with this trade show such great ingenuity in avoiding. I presume that when we come to consider it in Committee of the whole House it will be enough for me then to describe the purpose of each clause. I could do it now as well as then, if it were thought necessary, but I can see no object to be gained. It would be better, perhaps, to take up the discussion of each clause in the Committee.

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

INTERPRETATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (130) "An Act to amend 'The Interpretation Act.'" He said: This Bill is composed of only four clauses and is intended to remedy a difficulty which has occurred on more than one occasion in connection with the repeal and amendment of existing legislation. My hon. friend from Amherst brought before the House a case of this description the other day, where a doubt existed in the mind of a judge or court as to whether the repeal of an Act which brought another Act into force did not destroy the force of the latter. There are three or four other points of that description which have been encountered, and we desire to have an Act passed which will declare what the law is on these subjects. This also I think may be advantageously discussed in detail when it comes before a Committee of the whole House.

HON. MR. POWER—My hon. friend looks upon this as merely declaratory of the existing law: it does not lay down any new law.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is to make clear what the law of interpretation of the effect of amending Acts really is.

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

TEMPERANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. DICKEY moved the second reading of Bill (103) "An Act further to amend 'The Canada Temperance Act.'" He said: I can explain the purpose of this Act in a very few words. By the 96th section of the Canada Temperance Act, a time was fixed for the Act to come into operation after it was voted upon—that it was to come into operation immediately after the expiring of the licenses existing in the county. After a few years a doubt was expressed how it would apply in counties where there were no licenses whatever. For the removal of doubts of that description an Act was passed in 1884 which contained a section for the purpose