

property at Louisbourg, nor has it any knowledge to whom the property upon which the proposed monument is to be erected belongs.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill (E) "An Act further to amend the Civil Service Act."—(Mr. Angers).

Bill (27) "An Act respecting the Alberta Railway and Coal Company."—(Mr. Mac-Intosh).

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS moved the second reading of Bill (F) "An Act to amend the Act intitled an Act respecting Copyright."

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I wish to make some remarks upon this question of copyright, and as the hour is late I would ask the hon. gentleman to postpone the second reading of the bill until tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—If the hon. gentleman only wishes to speak upon the bill, and his remarks are confined to it, his speech would be very short. The bill has this in view: at the request of Lord Ripon we have agreed to bring in a bill to obtain from persons depositing books for copyright three copies instead of two. At present we have two copies, one for a record in the Archives Department and one for the Library of Parliament, and now the third copy is to go to the British Museum. That is the sole object of the bill; it only alters the word "two" to "three," and states where the third copy is to go. Of course, the hon. gentleman would be offered very limited scope in discussing the copyright question on this bill. I think he had better create some other occasion where he could express his opinion on the question of copyright.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I was not aware what the scope of the bill was, but I will defer my remarks.

The motion was agreed to.

INDIAN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved the second reading of Bill (G) "An

Act further to amend the Indian Act." He said: I have a minute of the amendments, and perhaps it would be just as well that I should give them to the House now, in order that members may be better able to judge of the merits of the bill when it goes to committee for discussion of the details. Clause 1 of the bill repeals section 38 of the act as enacted by section 3 of chapter 32 of the Statutes of 1894, and substitutes a section which gives wider scope as to leasing for the benefit of individual Indians land held by them. Even under the provision made last session as to the leasing of land held by individual Indians without a surrender, cases have arisen in which such land could not be leased without the consent of the band, though it was plainly a question in which the band was not, as a whole, interested. There are Indians who are neither sick, aged nor infirm, nor yet engaged in occupations precluding them from cultivating land, who ought to be free to lease land belonging to them (with the consent of the department) which they do not wish to cultivate, and it is scarcely fair that it should be in the power of members of the band to prevent their doing so. There are in Canada Indians living on their accumulated earnings, who have no need of cultivating land for their support, and in such cases it is felt that the department should be free to authorize their leasing the land held by them on the reserve without a surrender. As it is impossible to specify accurately in the Act the different cases in which land may be leased for the benefit of the Indian shareholders thereof, it is thought best to make a general provision such as that proposed, leaving the department free to lease land in such cases as it considers it in the interest of the Indian holders to lease it for their benefit. It will be observed that the proposed section is so worded as to preclude the leasing without a surrender of any land except such as is held by an individual Indian, and then only for his benefit. Clause 2 of the bill substitutes a new section for section 70 of the act. There has been some question as to the exact meaning of section 70 as it stands in the act, and the object of the change is to make clear the meaning which the department has always acted upon. The way the section now reads there seems room for the view that the Governor has not authority to direct the expenditure of capital from time to time, for the purposes mentioned in the three last