

afterwards sent to every board of trade in the Dominion, and approved of by them. It was embodied in a resolution which was passed by the Chambre de Commerce afterwards, and which reads as follows :

Whereas, the failure to keep regular books of account is adverse to the interests of those who invest their capital in commercial, industrial and financial enterprises by exposing them to endless losses, and is likewise the cause of a great many business failures ;

Whereas, the absence of books is also the cause of embezzlements, of all manner of breaches of confidence, of dishonest manipulations of funds, of obtaining moneys under false pretenses, and, finally, of fraudulent failures ;

Whereas, the enactment of a law, obliging persons or corporate bodies, doing business, to keep books of account, would have the salutary effect of checking these dishonest and illegal practices ;

Whereas, the making of accountancy obligatory for establishments or enterprises of a certain magnitude, would safeguard the general credit and would aid in the advancement and development of trade and of industries throughout the whole of Canada :

Resolved, that this 'Chambre de Commerce' reiterates its representations to the federal government, praying the introduction, at the next session, of a Bill obliging all persons, or bodies corporate, doing business, or who obtain credit, to the extent of one thousand dollars and upwards, to keep books sufficient, in case of failure, to render an account of their operations, and that such persons or bodies corporate, be held criminally responsible unless they show that the absence of regular books of account was not for the purpose of defrauding their creditors.

The fact that all the boards of trade throughout the Dominion approved of this resolution and passed similar resolutions, shows that there is a general feeling amongst commercial people in favour of legislation on this subject ; and their views thus formally expressed, should be taken into consideration by this parliament. The promoter of the Bill in the Senate last year, Senator Beique, stated that similar legislation exists in several countries, among others, France.

But such legislation is far more stringent than what we are proposing, because in France the laws which regulate commerce are more extensive and complete than those which prevail here and in England. It seems to me that in France, public opinion is more disposed to favour the stringent legislation than it is in any other country. As hon. members know, there are in France two kinds of bankruptcy—the ordinary bankruptcy and the fraudulent, and there the laws go very far in the way of regulating trade and Commerce. The legislation in that country was found too stringent, and the promoters of this Bill found it expedient to adopt rather the legislation which exists in Scotland, and which has been in existence there for many years and has given every satisfaction. Of course we do not want to go too far, but this legislation

is only a step in advance, and later on, if no general insolvency law be adopted, a step further ought to be made.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REPRESENTATION ACT.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorancy) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 117) to amend the Northwest Territories Representation Act.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I understand that the Bill is not printed in French.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I cannot understand why it is not, because it has been on the order paper over three weeks. I am inclined to think that it is, and that the order paper is mistaken. I would ask my hon. friend if possible not to press his objection, because this probably will be the last day on which I can bring the matter before the House. It is really a very important Bill. Its object is to introduce into the Northwest Territories Representation Act the provisions of the general election laws regarding the agents of candidates.

Mr. SIFTON. Where does the demand for the legislation come from ?

Mr. CASGRAIN. From the Northwest Territories. I do not undertake to say that I represent the Territories at all, but influential gentlemen from that part of the country have asked me to introduce this legislation. I do not think however that I need any special mandate. If I find in such an important statute as the election law of the Northwest Territories a section which evidently requires amendment, I do not think I require any distinct mandate from the Territories to propose an amendment. I am sure that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior will concur in that view. I am sure he will agree that we have a general mandate here to represent the people and not only those parts of the country from which we come. If my hon. friend the Solicitor General will withdraw his objection, I think he will be convinced that he has done well. My own opinion is that the Bill is printed in French and that the error is in the order paper.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It was read the first time on the 19th of May.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes. Under the 48th section of the Northwest Territories Representation Act, the enumerator can issue as many certificates as he pleases, while under the general election law he can only issue a certain number. The general trend of legislation on this subject has been to limit, as much as possible, the number of certified agents, so that no personation, as far as possible, may take place. It is