

not judge of that. I believe in the division, and I shall vote for it, but I would rather not; I would rather give the Government a chance to settle the question themselves.

HON. MR. GIRARD—I am in the hands of my friends, and I think it would be better to allow the motion to be declared lost on a division rather than withdraw it.

HON. MR. MASSON—It would be better to withdraw it.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—If the Government are not prepared to do justice to the people of the North-West they ought not to have introduced the Bill. They are or they are not prepared. If they are not prepared, it is inexpedient to pass a Bill which may be objectionable and unjust to the minority in that part of the country. Can the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface honestly and contentedly, if he believes that it is wrong, put this House in a position to vote on a measure which the Government themselves admit may not be right, and may be unjust?

HON. MR. OGILVIE—They do not admit at all that it is unjust.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—The Government themselves acknowledge that it may be unjust—that they are not prepared to say whether it is right or wrong. Therefore, if the Government are not prepared, they ought not to do what may be wrong, because they are not sure that it is right.

HON. MR. MASSON—The hon. gentleman from Delanau dière is under a misapprehension. The Government have given no opinion on the proposition. The Bill does not include the question of territorial divisions at all. If the hon. gentleman wishes to add that clause to the Bill, to say that there is a division which is not fairly represented—

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I so well understood the matter that even now that it is explained I persist in my opinion. This Bill gives a new power, a constitutional power, to the new Assembly, and in that new Assembly the minority will have no vote to decide whether the proceedings will be published in French or not. I say if you give such a power in this Bill you are not prepared to do what is right, and if the hon. gentleman finds that my argument is not logical let him show wherein it is wrong.

HON. MR. POWER—I hope the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface will withdraw his motion, for if he allows it to be lost on a division it will be in a much worse position than if it is withdrawn and not voted on at all. His friends in the other House will have an adverse vote of the Senate to start with.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—If the Government are not going to do anything, the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface ought to withdraw his motion.

HON. MR. GIRARD—As I understand from the leader of the House that the Government propose to give the question some consideration at a future day, and as my friends advise me to withdraw the motion, I shall do so.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the clause was agreed to.

HON. MR. READ (Quinté), from the committee, reported the Bill as amended.

The report was adopted.

FISHING VESSELS OF THE UNITED STATES BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (134.) "An Act respecting Fishing Vessels of the United States of America." He said: This Bill is simply for the purpose of authorizing the issuing of licenses to American fishing vessels for another year. It merely prolongs the *modus vivendi* for one year more. Negotiations are going on in relation to the fisheries that it would be a pity to disturb by unfriendly arrangements, and we desire that the privilege of issuing licenses to American fishing vessels be extended for one year. The Bill is exactly in the language of the Act passed in 1888, and does not extend the privileges therein contained. There were other privileges granted in the Bill of 1888 which it is proposed to consider by Order in Council.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—For the reasons given by the leader of the Government, I must approve of the extending of the *modus vivendi* for another year. At the same time, while negotiations are going on between the two countries, there is a strong feeling in the Maritime Provinces against