

it down. The policy which he adopts is, as a matter of courtesy to the hon. member who introduces the Bill, to give it a second reading, and then put it to sleep. Looking at the fact that the hon. gentleman who has introduced this measure has been able to show that the language to which his Bill refers is spoken by a very large portion of our population, perhaps the most courteous way to deal with his measure would be to give it a second reading, and afterwards, in Committee of the Whole, the objection might possibly be raised that it was a measure involving a tax upon the subject, and therefore one which did not come within the jurisdiction of the Senate.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I regret very much that whatever my hon. friend may think is the practice of the right hon. gentleman who leads the House of Commons, I am unable to adopt that practice in the present instance, even though it were applicable to the present case, which I do not think it is. I understand the parliamentary principle to be that the reading of a Bill the second time affirms its principle. I would be sorry to see this Bill go off on a point of order, or in any other way than by a direct vote against it, showing that this House has not hesitated for a single moment in expressing its disapprobation of the principle of the measure.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I do not rise to discuss the Bill that is now before the Senate; neither do I say that I am greatly opposed to the measure itself. I believe it is a question which the Government has to deal with, and until the Government are ready to suggest that this favor should be accorded to any of our fellow men in Canada of other origin than English or French, I shall always be ready to negative such a proposition. But when the Government believe that the finances of the country will bear such an expense I will be ready to approve of the granting of such favors. My object in rising is to answer a comparison made by the hon. mover of the Bill, when he stated that while the French population had a right to the continuance of their language, Scotchmen or Irishmen had an equal right to have their languages officially recognized.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—I had reference to the North-West.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—From all I have learned, a comparison, to be a good one, must be between two objects under similar conditions. In this instance the positions of the two languages compared are not equal. I find that the Gaelic language is confined to the British Islands, and is spoken by very few outside of the United Kingdom. French, on the other hand, is known everywhere; it is spoken in every part of the world. So universal is the use of the French language that when delegates from every civilized nation met at Washington some six years ago to discuss matters relating to the public health it was the only language which was understood by all, and they had to come to Ottawa to procure the services of two of our French reporters to report the debates of the conference. Only a few days ago a labor conference was assembled at Berlin, and there, again, French was used, because it was the only language understood by all. The comparison of the hon. gentleman is, therefore, not a sound one.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—The comparison is good, as far as our own country is concerned.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—No; because even in this country of ours, since French is known everywhere, if you maintain that language you will be sure, when you go abroad, that you will always have a language which will enable you to communicate your views in any part of the world. If you use Gaelic, I do not know where it would be understood outside of the British Islands. I will not discuss the question itself. It is well known that the French language was guaranteed to us when Canada was transferred to England, and I feel sure that the great majority of the people of this country are ready to support us in our claim. For that reason I do not propose to discuss this Bill at all, and I have only risen to show that the comparison which the hon. gentleman instituted was not sound.

HON. MR. POIRIER—As there is likely to be a division on this Bill, I should like to say a few words in explanation of the vote I propose to give. To a certain