

over till tomorrow, in order to give time for consideration. If it were in their power, he would be glad to see the measure passed.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said he and the Minister of Finance had been called upon as members of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and members of the Government, to consider this measure very carefully, and he was bound to say that although the House had yesterday reversed the conclusion at which they had arrived, he still thought that conclusion was correct.

He confessed that the Building Societies of Ontario had been very successful for various reasons, but he agreed with the Minister of Justice and the hon. member for Cardwell that they were not saving societies. He regretted very much that the House had reversed the decision of the Banking Committee, which he thought ought to be somewhat binding on the House. He had no doubt the success of the smaller societies had to a large extent influenced the Committee in their decision, but he thought it would not be perfectly safe to take that altogether for granted. He thought that the third reading of the Bill should be postponed until tomorrow in order that the general principle involved could be considered.

**Mr. IRVING** was willing to leave his remarks until the third reading of the Bill provided that they were postponed till tomorrow.

**Hon. Mr. CAUCHON** thought the Government should be careful in passing measures which it was possible were beyond the jurisdiction of the House. He considered that it was the duty of the Government during the recess to establish a principle and rule which would guide them in the legislation brought before the House, and which would guide the Local Legislatures in the same manner. Future legislation might undo the legislation of the present, and interfere with rights which have thus been created.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said it was the duty of the Government to decide before coming to the House what bills were within the jurisdiction of the House, and measures they considered they could not legislate upon should not be submitted to this Parliament. He dissented from the dogma laid down that a bill which had passed through a committee should be accepted *ipso facto* by the House.

**Mr. MOSS**, while willing to consent to leave the third reading over till tomorrow, was unwilling that any further delay should take place. He thought he was being rather unfairly treated, after the question and principle had been so well and thoroughly discussed in the Committee and the House, by members at this stage raising a constitutional point.

The members from Ontario, differ as they might upon the details of the Bill, were agreed upon the general principles it involved, and were anxious to see it pass. He took entire exception to the analogy endeavoured to be established by the hon. member (Hon. Mr. Holton) between Building Societies and Savings Banks, and was sorry that he should have taken objections to the bill passing its third reading now. He hoped that members who intended to raise constitutional objections would do so now, and not spring them upon hon. members who were not learned in the law at the moment when they would have no time to make up their minds, which they could not be expected to do without some consideration

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said it should be understood that the bill would be disposed of tomorrow. Nothing, however, would be gained by discussing the constitutionality of the measure now.

On the motion of **Mr. MOSS**, it was then resolved that the bill should be read a third time tomorrow.

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#### BILLS FROM THE SENATE

Several Bills were brought down from the Senate, some of them with amendments. Among others amended was the Controverted Elections Bill, the amendments to which were read a first time.

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#### QUEBEC ICE BRIDGE

**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal Ouest)** moved the second reading of the bill to amend Act 29 Vic., Cap. 57, of the statutes of the late Province of Canada. He stated that the object of the bill was to amend the charter of the city of Quebec by abolishing the ice bridge. The bill was based upon a petition from the leading commercial men of Montreal and Quebec.

**Hon. Mr. CAUCHON** suggested that the bill should be withdrawn and the order discharged. The object of the bill would be furthered by postponing legislation in this respect for a year.

**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal Ouest)** said the bill might as well be strangled this way as another, he supposed.

**Hon. Mr. DORION** suggested that the measure should be referred to a Select Committee.

**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal Ouest)** said he would not refer the matter to a Committee, because that would involve its not passing this session.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said the hon. gentleman was only allowed to move the second reading on sufferance.

**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal Ouest)** considered that since the petition had been received from the leading commercial men of Montreal and Quebec, the measure should be passed. He did not anticipate any objection being offered to the bill. It was not printed, and, if he refused to consent to the suggestion of his hon. friend, the Minister of Justice, he would take upon himself the responsibility of the second reading being refused.

The bill was then read a second time and referred to a committee consisting of Hon. Messrs. Dorion, Cauchon, and Smith (Westmorland), Mr. Fréchette, and the mover.

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#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal Ouest)** then moved the second reading of the bill to amend Act 36 Vic., Cap. 47, respecting weights and measures. The object of the bill, he stated, was to make