

doses. With respect to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. Fisher) that a clause should be introduced repealing a clause in a Bill that has already passed this House, I fear that is impossible. The House have not dealt, and we cannot deal, with that specifically. However, that question will more properly arise when the hon. gentleman carries out his intention of moving an additional clause in committee; and I have no doubt the House will consider the point and will listen to the ruling of the Speaker upon the point, whether it is within our power to repeat in another Act what has been stated in an Act of the same Parliament. I am not at all sure about the point, but certainly we could not act adversely to this clause, and perhaps we may have power in a subsequent Act to repeal an enactment which we have previously adopted. In the meantime I hope the House will read the Bill a second time.

Mr. BLAKE. I think that the clause which my hon. friend very properly introduced, as it is to be a resolution on which a Bill might be based, would be very much improved by some further parliamentary specification of what portions of the Act are to be suspended. But even if it is to remain in its present brief form I think we ought to insert a declaration more pointedly of what the Supreme Court has declared by their short answer—perhaps by a schedule to the Act. It ought not to be a subject of doubt, or of explanation, or of enquiry in any of the numerous courts in which this question may arise. And when you say: We now leave to the judges who are the interpreters of the law—as we have given them what the declaration of the Supreme Court is we have given them a suspensory clause—and it is for them to interpret what that means, and instead of saying “it shall be suspended” it is better to state “is hereby suspended.” I want to call the hon. gentleman’s attention to the fact that very early in this Session I moved for correspondence with respect to the different License Commissioners and the instructions given them. That return has not been brought down; and yet we are now called upon to consider a suspensory clause. I hope that before we proceed with the measure much further the hon. gentleman will bring down the information so that hon. members can see what is going on as to the administration of the Act and the instructions that have been given. A circular was issued by some of the commissioners, making certain declarations, apparently on the part of the Government, that the Act would be enforced after a certain time; in fact giving a sort of notice to those who wanted licenses to apply and obtain them or certain penalties would be imposed. The hon. First Minister gave notice some time ago of certain amendments which he would move in committee—either the hon. gentleman or the Minister of Inland Revenue gave notice of a long string of amendments.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I did not.

Mr. BLAKE. We have been otherwise engaged so that these matters have somewhat passed out of our recollection.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I find I did give notice of amendments, I had quite forgotten the fact.

Mr. BLAKE. We might have some explanation as to those amendments.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Hon. gentlemen opposite have so absorbed my attention with their able amendments on the Franchise Bill that other matters have been somewhat lost sight of. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that it would be well to have the question of the judgment of the Supreme Court by way of recital to the Bill before it is passed through committee. Unfortunately, and I think it is unfortunate, the decision was given shortly and without reasons. Although it was in one sense a constitutional

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reference to the Supreme Court in another sense it was a statutory reference, and it was said the decision would be final, unless it was afterwards submitted and adjudicated upon by the Privy Council. The whole question is more in the way of a judgment than of answers to a question. The statute evidently contemplated that it was to be a quasi-judgment, and there was to be an appeal from it. There cannot well be an appeal from a question asked by the Crown for the information of the Crown. We are in some degree in fault in being absolutely ignorant of the reasons which actuated the judges in answering the question as they did. That somewhat hampers us in pointing out in what respect the judgment of the Supreme Court affects the McCarthy Act. However, when we go into Committee of the Whole I will consider this point, and also reconsider the resolution of which I have given notice.

Bill read the second time.

#### CENTRAL PRISON OF ONTARIO.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of Bill (No. 129) to amend the Act respecting the Central Prison for the Province of Ontario. He said: This is a Bill introduced by the Minister of Justice in another place after communicating with the Government of Ontario, and it speaks for itself. It gives power to the provincial authorities to act in the manner signified.

Bill read the second time, considered in committee reported and read the third time and passed.

#### REVISED STATUTES OF CANADA.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that Bill (No. 130) respecting the Revised Statutes of Canada be withdrawn and the Order discharged.

Bill withdrawn and Order discharged.

#### LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of Bill (No. 139) to amend the Act in relation to the Library of Parliament. He said: This measure was very fully discussed on the resolutions on which the Bill is founded, and I shall therefore content myself with moving the second reading.

Mr. BLAKE. If the hon. gentleman will not take the committee stage I shall not object, but I am anxious to have some discussion in committee.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Certainly.

Bill read the second time.

#### NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE FORCE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the following resolution:

“That it is expedient that the Governor in Council should be empowered from time to time to authorize the Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police to increase the present number of constables to one thousand men, and to appoint from among them non-commissioned officers of different grades, and to appoint supernumerary constables not to exceed in the whole twenty men, and to employ, not to exceed in the whole, fifty men as scouts; and that such constables and scouts should be paid the same rates of pay as now authorized by Law for the present force.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has at no time given any explanation of this measure. It would seem to me that before going into committee something ought to be said upon it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This resolution is in effect to double the force. It will be remembered that this measure was not introduced in consequence of the late outbreak in the North-West—I may say the present outbreak, though I hope that we will soon be able to speak of it in the past tense. It was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, as