

American reprints of British copyright works. The Canadian publishers are to-day, every one of them, ready to pay the 12½ per cent. authors' tax, as the American publishers have to do, if they are only allowed to reprint British books. But they are not allowed to do it, in the present condition of the law; and there is nothing in the Act of 1875 that affects that difficulty in the slightest degree. Then there is the other case: where an American author takes out an English copyright of a book, we cannot have a Canadian reprint at all. The Canadian publisher cannot touch that book at all, except at the will of the author. The trouble has been so great that Canadian publishers have tried to get over it in several ways. They have established printing houses on the other side of the line, so that the printers who might have been employed in Canada, and the paper that might have been bought here, have been employed or obtained there. Toronto publishers have sent the books over to Buffalo or somewhere else, in order to publish there, and then run them back to Canada as foreign reprints. It is a pity we have to do in a clandestine way what the Canadian law ought to permit us to do. The hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Desjardins) and the hon. Minister of Militia, referred to the National Policy, and I admit that it would be something like a National Policy to pass these resolutions. Let the Canadian publishers get the benefit of the 15 per cent. duty on books. If they were permitted to reprint here a British copyright book, on paying the 12½ per cent. authors' tax, they would have 15 per cent. advantage over the American publishers, who have to pay not only the 12½ per cent. authors' tax, but the 15 per cent. duty, too; I admit that. Now, the suggestion which the hon. Minister of Militia has given to the House is, of course, entirely new to me, namely, that there is some prospect of having a modification in the copyright law in England, to meet some of the grievances we suffer from in Canada, and he leads us to hope that there is a prospect of having an early reciprocity with England in the matter of copyright. I certainly suppose the hon. gentleman would not have made that statement without being satisfied that something of the kind would be done. If that is done, it is certainly something in the right direction; but I am very strongly of opinion that if this House passes these resolutions, and in the most respectful way requests the Imperial Government to place us on a free and independent footing with respect to copyright, Her Majesty's Government will be readier to make whatever concessions ought to be made to Canada in this matter than if we leave it as it stood when the Royal assent was reserved from the Act of 1872. The publishers are feeling the grievances practically. Hundreds of printers would be employed in Canada that are not employed, and we should have competition in Canada with American reprints, if we could legislate in the direction even of the Act of 1872. Therefore, I still strongly press upon the Government the propriety of allowing these resolutions to carry.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The object of this motion I heard the hon. gentleman state in the speech with which he introduced it. I have lost the greater part of the discussion, as I was called away on business; but I have spoken with my hon. friend who has addressed the House, and, with his consent, I would ask that the matter be allowed to stand over. I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### THE EASTER RECESS.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. BLAKE. I asked the hon. gentleman, at an early period of the day with reference to a rumor about events in the North-West that he did not know much about.

There is another rumor in the corridors, of practical consequence to us, and that is, as to the proposal of the Government with reference to Easter.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government proposes, with the consent of the House, to move, that when the House adjourns on Thursday before Good Friday, it stands adjourned until the Tuesday following, at three o'clock.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 24th March, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

#### PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE AND LAKE OF THE WOODS RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Mr. WATSON moved:

That that part of the report of the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, relating to the report to incorporate the Portage la Prairie and Lake of the Woods Railway and Navigation Company, and declaring that the preamble of said Bill is not proven to the satisfaction of said committee, be not adopted, but that said Bill be referred back to the said committee for further consideration.

Mr. BLAKE. It is quite clear that the report must go back to the committee. The 65th rule of the House states:

"When the committee on any private Bill report to the House that the preamble of such Bill has not been proven to their satisfaction, they must also state the grounds upon which they have arrived at such decision."

No ground was given in this report.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I understand from the Clerk of the House, to whom I spoke on the matter, that the report must go back—that the clerk of the committee did not give the reasons in the report which was presented. Of course, therefore, the hon. gentleman is perfectly in order in making this motion, which I think should carry.

Mr. BLAKE. It is the committee who have to arrive at the conclusion.

Motion agreed to.

#### CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. JAMIESON. I should like to ask the Government whether it is possible to fix a day for the second reading of Bill (No. 92) to amend the Canada Temperance Act.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have no objection that a day should be fixed. I would fix to-morrow.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The House does not sit to-morrow.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, we will have it to-morrow week.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the best plan would be, as there is a Bill already named first on the Orders, that is, the Bill of the hon. member for Cornwall and Stormont (Mr. Bergin), the Factory Bill, to make this Bill the second. We have no right to interfere with the preference we gave to that hon. gentleman's Bill, and these are the two most important Bills in the hands of private members, I fancy.

Mr. SPEAKER. There must be a motion.

Mr. IVES. There are several other Bills on the same subject, in which I think the House has as much interest as the Bill which the hon. gentleman refers to. If a special day is fixed for this Bill, I think it should be understood