

Marriage and divorce, associated with divorce, seems to bring into relation the question of the validity of the marriage and the validity of getting out of marriage by way of divorce.

Honourable senators, I do not contend that my opinion will remain that way, but for the moment I am very much inclined that way. Therefore it will be well to have the opinion of the law clerk of the Senate, as suggested by you, Mr. Chairman, and by Senator Pouliot, and to have the opinions of other lawyers of importance.

As you have said, Mr. Chairman, the matter is very important. Its importance has been recognized for not less than a century. It may be that before changing the law we should open our two eyes and look very deeply into this whole matter.

In the meantime may I take it that this bill will be returned to the Senate where all senators will receive an explanation from the sponsor, and also have the benefit of the opinion of counsel? We are but a few in this committee, and generally a bill is explained in the House.

The CHAIRMAN: This bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills. It is the duty of the committee to make an inquiry and then report to the Senate after that inquiry is completed. If an officer of the Department of Justice comes and speaks for the department, stating whether he feels this bill is constitutional or not, we will have that opinion. Then we may seek the opinion of people outside the department, lawyers qualified to testify on this matter. Then, the whole inquiry will have been completed and we will make a report to the Senate.

Senator MONETTE: That is not exactly what I had in mind, Mr. Chairman. You have stated the regular procedure. When the bill was introduced the other day, Senator Pouliot refused to give an outline of the scope of the bill or its legality. So those senators who are not here today have not had an opportunity of receiving his views. I suggest that when it is sent back to the House, the procedure which avails at all times should be followed and that the proposer should explain it.

The CHAIRMAN: You know of course that a note of this inquiry is being taken by the *Hansard* reporter and the report of the committee will include all the testimony rendered before it, so that all senators may avail themselves of the opinions given before the committee.

Senator MONETTE: Does that mean the committee proceedings will be printed?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Senator MONETTE: Very well, that is all right.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it your wish to adjourn now until next week?

Hon. SENATORS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: In the meantime I will try to arrange for Mr. Bedard to appear before the committee.

Senator POULIOT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.

The committee adjourned.