

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Fifteen.

Mr. EDGAR. Is it proposed to make fifteen registries?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No; some of them have no business, and we will of course drop them.

Mr. MULOCK. A difficulty presents itself to my mind. Suppose it should happen that one of these local judges should be taken ill, and was unable to transact his business. He would still be in office, and how is it proposed to deal with his duties during his incapacity?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is always available the principal judge of the Exchequer Court himself, and these judges have concurrent jurisdiction with him.

On section 16,

Mr. SKINNER. Is it intended that the judges who were holding their offices at the time the Imperial Act was passed, shall hold their office now under the new court without any appointment whatever?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. That would be the effect of it. It might be desirable to issue commissions to them, inasmuch as their title of office would be changed. But this absolutely entitles them to continue in their office without any fresh appointment.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). You make it a legal and not a parliamentary appointment?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Is it the intention of the hon. gentleman to carve out new districts during the lifetime of the present incumbent?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No.

On section 25,

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Does this provision mean to give concurrent jurisdiction to the Exchequer Court judge with the Admiralty Court judges of the Lower Provinces?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I should imagine that if a case arose in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, it would be more convenient to institute proceedings in those provinces rather than commence a suit in Ottawa.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. This provision gives power to the judge of the Exchequer Court to go to the other provinces to dispose of such cases. Section 10 provides the way the suit may be instituted.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Section 23 provides that, notwithstanding the provision of section 10, the initial proceedings may be taken before the Exchequer Court at Ottawa.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. It does not mean that.

Mr. MULOCK. It seems to me possible that it may be necessary, by circumstances, to institute a suit in a district in which it may not be the most convenient to continue it, and, in such cases, I think there should be power to change the venue, as it were, to a more convenient district, inasmuch as the position of the vessel gives the jurisdiction. Sometimes it may happen that the party suing may be compelled to institute a suit in an inconvenient

district, and section 12 gives power to transfer from the local to the principal districts, but not from one district to another.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) If that power were invested in the principal judge, it would be a useful one.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The districts are so large that there could be very little inconvenience of that kind. The district includes the whole province, and, if it is inconvenient for a judge to preside in Halifax, for instance, he could try the suit in Cape Breton or wherever he pleases. A provision that you could change the venue from one province to another would be inconvenient.

Committee rose; and it being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

## After Recess.

### ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:—

MR. SPEAKER,—

His Honour Chief Justice Sir Wm. Ritchie, Deputy Governor, desires the immediate attendance of your Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber.

And having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Deputy Governor had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

An Act respecting the Farmers' Bank of Rustico.

An Act with respect to the Albion Mines Savings Bank.

### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 66) to confirm a lease between the Guelph Junction Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes.—(Mr. Henderson.)

Bill (No. 78) to confirm an agreement between the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and to confer further powers on the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Company.—(Mr. Ross, Lisgar.)

Bill (No. 46) respecting the South-Western Railway Company.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Bill (No. 65) respecting the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Bill (No. 39) respecting the Maritime Chemical Pulp Company (Limited), and to change the name thereof to The Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company Limited.—(Mr. Tisdale.)

Bill (No. 48) to incorporate the Manitoba Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. Macdonald, Winnipeg.)

### SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 118) respecting the Citizens' Insurance Company.—(Mr. Desjardins, Hochelaga.)

### WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

Mr. FOSTER moved concurrence in resolutions reported from Committee on Ways and Means.