

of the owner. Catholic emancipation was granted in Nova Scotia and in Cape Breton long before it was taken up in the Mother Country, and Roman Catholics were admitted to the House without taking the oath, and yet, after all that, you say that no Mongolian can enter the harbor of Halifax. I say that this House has done an injury to Nova Scotia, and I am only sorry that I was not here to vote against the Bill even if my vote were the only one recorded in opposition to it.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—No doubt if the hon. member had been here and had an opportunity of making his speech it would have relieved his own feelings and he would have felt that he had done his duty, but it would not have altered the result.

HON. MR. ALMON—I do not know about that.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Then the hon. gentleman is quite mistaken in supposing that there was any irregularity in reporting the bill from committee and reading it the third time on the same day. It was reported from the committee without amendment, and it was quite in order to read the bill the third time. The rule of the House is that a bill cannot take two stages in the one day: that is, have two readings, but there is no reason why the House should not receive the report of a committee and, if there is no amendment, read the bill the third time at the same sitting—in fact it is the usual practice.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Supposing it had been done against the rules, what would have been the result?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There would have been no result. It would have gone back to the other House. The objection should have been taken at the time.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I am not referring to this case particularly.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The hon. gentleman asks whether if the real point was a bill being read twice the same day and any objection were taken to it

afterwards anything could be done? Nothing could be done. If any person had taken the point of order and it had been referred to the Speaker, then the Speaker would have said "The bill cannot take two readings on the same day", and whoever had charge of the bill might possibly have moved to suspend the rule. Objection might then be taken to that on the ground that you cannot suspend the rule without notice.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—But if it had been passed over?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Nothing could have been done if the House chose to pass over the rule.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Suppose a Bill passes its second reading and the promoter proposes the third reading, and some member rises and says that the rule ought to be followed, and two readings cannot take place on the same day, and notwithstanding that, the majority say it must be done—is not that contrary to the rule?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes.

THE SPEAKER—The action of the House would be final. This is the highest court in the land and there can be no appeal from it in consequence of any technicality.

HON. MR. POWER—The House can suspend its own rules whenever it likes.

ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN DISPUTED TERRITORY BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that they had passed Bill (165), "An Act to continue for a limited time the Act therein mentioned."

The Bill was read the first time.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved that rule 41 be suspended so far as relates to this Bill.

The motion was agreed to.