

solely the question of constitutional rights, and my right hon. friend gets off just where he commenced. What has he done, Mr Speaker? He has commenced a constitutional contest. That contest had for its object the determination of the question as to whether the Senate had any right to interfere with a financial bill or not. How did it end? It ended by my right hon. friend accepting the position taken by the Senate? Why, we might as well have had no conference and saved this time and this farce.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think my hon. friend could have been in the House when I spoke.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Yes, and I heard what the right hon. member said.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. member has forgotten it.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not think I have forgotten very much. We have here the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. It is something which my right hon. friend may be able to distinguish, but I do not think the people of this country are going to worry very much about it. The fact remains that the real issue was as to whether or not the Senate had the right to amend a financial bill. And the real result is that today the Prime Minister says they have the right, and let us accept it. And there it stands. It is done. There is really nothing else. What was the object of all those reasons for adoption by this House unless that was the object? What was the reason of forgetting all about the merits of the case, unless that was the object? We have this difference now, so far as the real issue is concerned; we have the preamble dropped, and every lawyer in this House knows that the preamble is a matter of absolutely no importance.

Mr. SHAW: May it not be of some value in interpreting the bill?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friend, with his customary gallantry, is coming to the assistance of the government who sorely need it now.

Mr. VIEN: My hon. friend will allow me—

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I will not. We have had a suggestion and I can deal with it at once. My hon. friend from Lotbiniere now wants to speak. What is the matter with the Minister of the Interior? He is making an exhibition of himself.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: An absolute exhibition of himself.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): My hon. friend is ignoring everything that was stated by the Prime Minister.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am coming to it just as quickly as my hon. friend wants it. The preamble is not the operative part of any statute. The preamble is of use—and here I think I carry with me the judgment of my gallant friend from West Calgary (Mr. Shaw)—in case there be any real doubt as to the meaning of any section of the act as indicating what the object of the act is. We have a change in that preamble. Now did my right hon. friend the Prime Minister indicate more changes in the preamble than that change and the change in relation to "straitened circumstances"? If there be anything else I confess I did not hear it, and I am going to ask the Minister of the Interior what else was said.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The hon. member is ignoring the principal statements made by the Prime Minister.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What were they?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That is for you to say.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The Minister of the Interior knows full well that when I state there was a change made in that preamble, and when I state there was the addition of the words "straitened circumstances" I have covered everything.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I call attention to the fact that not more than three minutes ago my hon. friend said there was no change in the preamble.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friend is entirely wrong. I did not make that statement. The statement I made was that the change in the preamble was of no material consequence.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The hon. member made the statement a few minutes ago.

Mr. VIEN: The hon. member said it had no importance.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I still say so.

Mr. VIEN: It has.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I still think it has not. I do not mind the chorus at all, and if we have another one I do not care. I rather like the chorus. It just shows how far