

The Legal News.

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LEGISLATION AT QUEBEC.

Several important changes in the Civil Code have been proposed during the present Session at Quebec.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Mathieu, to repeal articles 2172 and 2173 C. C. The bill was read a second time, July 16th, and referred to the committee on privileges and hypothecs, composed of Hon. Messrs. Ross and Langelier, and Messrs. Racicot, Loranger, Mathieu, Wurtele, Gagnon, Lecavalier, Champagne, Bouthillier, and Molleur. It is unnecessary to remark that a measure which would alter so materially the law of registration claims the most attentive consideration before it is adopted. The bill, we notice, is designed to have a retroactive effect, "so that, in so far as regards the effect of the registration or renewal of the registration of real rights, articles 2172 and 2173 shall be considered as having never existed," and pending suits are not excepted.

In a bill introduced by Mr. Wurtele, Q.C., it was proposed to amend the law respecting the rights and liabilities of innkeepers. The first and principal section enacted that "where the keeper of an inn, tavern or hotel, provides a safe in the office thereof, or in some other convenient place therein, for the safe keeping of money, jewels and ornaments, belonging to his guests, and notifies a guest thereof, by posting in a conspicuous manner, in a room occupied by the guest, a copy of this section and a notice stating the fact that a safe is so provided, in which money, jewels and ornaments, may be so deposited, he is not liable for the loss of any money, jewels, or ornaments, sustained by theft or otherwise, by a guest thus notified, who has omitted to deposit them in the safe." This amendment of the law, if it had been sanctioned by the legislature, would have been rather hard upon exhausted travellers, who, arriving at a hotel late at night, and failing to examine with care the walls of their sleeping apartments for the notices referred to, would find themselves deprived of remedy.

The six months' hoist, moved by Mr. Irvine, Q. C., was, however, carried (July 16).

Another bill introduced by Mr. Wurtele, proposes to amend Art. 2093 C. C., under which "registration avails in favor of all parties whose rights are mentioned in the document presented for that purpose," by adding thereto the following paragraph: "But such registration does not have the effect of an acceptance by a third person of a stipulation or of an indication of payment in his favor, unless it be made at his request; and when such registration is not made at the request of such third person, until an acceptance has been registered, the party who made the stipulation or the delegating debtor may cause the registration of the stipulation or the indication to be cancelled, saving the case of substitution mentioned in the third paragraph of article 930."

The English version of article 2098 of the Civil Code, it is proposed, shall be amended by striking out the word: "purchaser," in the last paragraph, and substituting the word: "acquirer;" and article 2099 is repealed.

A bill, introduced by Hon. Mr. Chauveau, regulating the security to be given by public officers in the Province, was read a third time and passed, July 16. The security is in future to be given by means of a guarantee assurance policy, or by a deposit in money or approved debentures.

The Hon. Mr. Ross introduced a bill to provide for the institution of suits against the Crown in this Province by petition of right. The petition is to be presented to the Superior Court of the district where it would have been tried if against a subject, and the *fiat* of the Lieutenant-Governor is required before service on the Attorney-General. Mr. Irvine proposed in amendment that the Lieutenant-Governor should not be bound to grant his *fiat* until the suppliant should have furnished good security to the Attorney-General for the costs of the petition; but the amendment was lost. The proceedings are assimilated to the procedure governing suits between subjects. The bill was read a third time and passed, July 16.

We shall notice some other measures in our next issue.