

ited knowledge of French I should hesitate to speak on the subject, but I know enough of the difficulties of translation to appreciate them, and my only thought was to convey to the minister and the Government the importance of a correct translation, especially in regard to our statutes. A correct translation is important in relation to all our documents, but when we come to the law of the country and find after a lapse of years that there have been "printers' errors"—and it is very easy to blame the printer or the proof-reader—it seems to me that we ought to realize the importance of having skilled and capable men as translators, and if we have been lax in that respect in the past, by all means let us elevate the standard of the men we engage for this work, which is one of the highest classes of work in our public service.

Mr. DOHERTY: As I said, I fully agree with everything that can be urged in regard to the importance of having correct translations. It was a matter of alarm to me when my attention was first called to this large number of errors, and I have done my best to impress upon the law officer looking after this work the importance of getting these amendments correct now. As I said, I understand there is at present a joint committee of both Houses considering the question of the organization of the translation staff. I do not know how far they have proceeded, but I do hope that they will give the most serious consideration to the importance of having this translation work properly done. I am not in a position to give to the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Bélard) the name of the translator or translators who made this revision. But I did impress upon the Parliamentary Counsel, from whom I can obtain the name without difficulty, the importance of getting the best talent available, and above all—because I think it is more a question of care than a question of ability—that he should impress upon those doing the work the importance of doing it carefully.

Mr. JACOBS: What assurance have we that the changes proposed by this new Act are going to be correct? The Bill comprises twenty pages and deals with changes affecting practically every section of the Criminal Code. The minister speaks about these errors as being merely errors of translation. On page 11 of the Bill the following changes are proposed in the French translation of section 129:

By substituting the words "Si deux ou plus de deux prisonniers sont" for all the words in

the first line to the word "accusés;" and by inserting after the word "infraction," in the second line, the words "et si l'un d'eux;" and inserting after the word "procès," in the last line, the words "devant un jury."

That is not correcting an error in translation, it seems to me. It is making an entire change in the law.

Mr. DOHERTY: The English words corresponding to these words that are now sought to be inserted in the French version are in the English version; therefore all we are doing is making the French version correspond with the English. As to what guarantee we can have that these changes are correctly made, there are two ways by which we may be assured: either by relying upon those officers who have done the work, or by taking up the English version and comparing these enactments with it. That of course, would be a somewhat tedious work for the committee to undertake

Mr. BUREAU: The change in section 829 would seem to make the thing worse. The English version says: "If one of two or more." The present French translation says: "Si un prévenu, sur deux ou plus." You are going to strike that out and substitute the words: "Si deux ou plus de deux prisonniers."

Mr. BELAND: Has it occurred to the minister that this Bill should be submitted to a small Committee of the House over which the minister might preside? We have on this side a number of eminent lawyers who are fully conversant with both languages. It would not take them more than two hours to go over these different items or clauses and see if the translation is proper, whereas if we take the Bill up clause by clause in the Committee of the Whole, it may take us two or three days to deal with it.

Mr. DOHERTY: I am prepared to welcome the co-operation of such hon. members as my hon. friend has referred to, who may be willing to undertake this work. In view of the suggestion that has been made, and in order that we may be in a position to carry it out, I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. DENIS: Before the committee rises I have an observation to make. I do not want to cast blame on anybody, but it seems extraordinary that all these mistakes should have been made, either in the translation or in the correction of proof. For instance, if we look at the changes proposed