

Mr. BLAKE. I know that, but I do not think any of those Bills were read the second time.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, they were not read the second time.

Mr. BLAKE. Then, of course, we cannot go into Committee on it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not move to go into committee.

Mr. BEATY. I think it was read the second time, and then referred to the committee.

Mr. BLAKE. Is this Order of the Day correct in stating that this Bill is in a fit shape to be referred to a committee? My recollection is that none of these Bills had been read the second time. The Clerk says it was read the second time. Of course, if it is so, it is all right.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, it was read the second time, and referred to the General Committee appointed by the House; and the committee adopted the course that they had power to report by Bill.

Mr. BLAKE. I think the second reading must have been taken in a very great hurry, and not on the regular Order of the Day, because that one of the Insolvency Bills should have been read a second time without any debate, certainly takes many members of the House by surprise.

Mr. SPEAKER. The Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 18th March, state:

"Bill (No. 4) to provide for the distribution of assets of insolvent debtors, was read the second time, and referred to the Special Committee on Banking and Commerce."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I was not aware of it myself.

Mr. BLAKE. I think it must have been done on some other Order, because I am confident the House at large has no idea that any Insolvency Bills have been read the second time.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings). It is a strange thing that it should have been read the second time, and none of the members of this House know anything about it.

Mr. BLAKE. I am not able to speak of the variations that have been made in the Bill which it is proposed to deal with now by the committee. But if this and a number of other Bills were regularly read the second time and referred to this committee to report upon, I suppose the committee was authorised to amend them and report them in an amended shape. I do not say that the committee has been doing anything irregular in taking that course, and that consequently it is competent to take the course of assuming the Bill to have got to this stage; but it is a most inconvenient course, because the principle and all this machinery of the Insolvency Bill have been admitted without being discussed.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My recollection is not very clear upon the point. But I fancy I moved for the committee and stated the general principles upon which it should act, and I think likely that all the various Bills were left to that committee to consider. I do not remember the second reading of the Bill, but certainly it must have been read the second time.

Mr. BLAKE. I think, perhaps, the most convenient course to preserve to the House its liberty of action in the matter would be to have an understanding—of course the hon. gentleman's motion is quite unobjectionable—that when the motion comes on there be a motion to go into committee on the Bill, and let that be the testing motion instead of the motion for the second reading.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Very well.

Motion agreed to; and Bill transferred to Government Orders.

LIQUOR LICENSE ACT OF 1883.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron), moved that the resolution agreed to in Committee of the Whole, on the 20th inst., declaring that in the opinion of this House such portions of the Liquor License Act of 1883 and the Act to amend the Liquor License Act of 1883, as the Supreme Court of Canada has declared to be *ultra vires*, should be suspended unless and until the same shall be decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to be *intra vires* of the Parliament of Canada, be read the second time and concurred in.

Motion agreed to, and resolution concurred in.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 134) respecting the Liquor License Act of 1883. He said: The Bill does not affect the hon. gentleman's resolution. It may be considered almost in blank, but, however, it is not in blank. The Department of Inland Revenue may be obliged to add some clauses; but the Bill, as it is presented is simply enacting the resolution in which we have just concurred.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Before the Orders of the Day are called I desire to state that there is too much reason to fear that the rumors which have reached us about a disaster at Fort Pitt are true; but they are not fully confirmed. They come from Battleford and are vague in their nature, and therefore I do not think it will be well, out of consideration for the feelings of those who are interested in the various peoples who are there, to speak more specifically, because all the reports are rumors as yet. But they have sprung from various sources, and therefore one must believe that a massacre has occurred there; but to what extent I am unable to inform the House. The moment I receive information, it will be laid before the House.

CIVIL SERVICE ACTS AMENDMENT.

On order for third reading of Bill (No. 31) to amend and consolidate the Canada Civil Service Acts of 1882, 1883, and 1884.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I desire to have a couple of amendments made in this Bill, and therefore will move that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration. I propose to restore clause 7 which was struck out of the bill. That clause as it read was found objectionable in this way. It read:

Any person who is a member of the Civil Service at the time of the passing of this Act shall remain classified in the respective class in which he is serving.

Objection was taken, and I think rightly taken, that the word "serving" might be held to confirm the classification of an officer who might be acting *pro tem* in the place of another, which effect was not intended. At the time I thought we might dispense with the clause altogether, but I intend to re-insert it in this form:

'Any person who is a member of the Civil Service at the time of the passing of this Act shall be classified in the respective class in which he is appointed.'

I propose also to make a slight amendment in clause 55. It is there stated: "Nor shall anything herein contained affect any class, salary or emolument granted," and I propose to leave out the word "class."

Motion agreed to; and the House again resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. BLAKE. I do not very well understand yet the object of clause 7.