

being protected. It is all very well to say that the judges of our courts are men of unimpeachable integrity. We know they are, but surely it appears reasonable that where a large body of men, the shareholders, have their all in the bank, and that perhaps their property may have been thrown away in a most discreditable manner, they ought to have some voice in the appointment of the liquidator in whose hands their property is to be entrusted. We may be called upon to pay a double liability in a summary manner, while we have not one comforting assurance to feel that our interests are fairly dealt with. It does appear to me that the House ought to pause. Does the hon. gentleman propose that the Bill shall be retrospective.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—No.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I think it is very desirable that it should be retrospective, to deal with certain banks which have got into difficulties within the past five years. It does seem to me that in view of the history of some of the banks of this country that we know of, a measure which empowers a court to appoint liquidators in this manner, will have the effect of driving every man to take his money out of bank stocks and invest it in other securities.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I beg to move that the bill be referred to a select committee to consist of Hon. Messrs. Scott, Dickey, Trudel, McMaster, Gibbs, and the mover.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I again ask why a Bill of this importance should not be left to the committee on Banking and Commerce? No objection can be raised to the members of that committee, but to send the bill to so small a number when we have the Banking Committee selected from the leading merchants and the leading bankers of the House, seems to me an improper course. I cannot understand why the hon. gentleman should propose a select committee to deal with an important matter like this, and I hope the House will not agree to it.

L'HON. MR. BUREAU—J'attire l'attention des honorables Sénateurs sur l'importance de conserver aux actionnaires ou autres personnes ayant des réclamations

contre les corporations en question, tous leurs droits et privilèges que ces actionnaires ou autres pourraient avoir contre ces corporations, leurs directeurs ou agents responsables afin que telles liquidations ne puissent en aucune manière leur préjudicier. Je sais que durant la Session actuelle ces questions seront soulevées à l'occasion d'une banque à Montréal qui a été mise en liquidation. Le Bill actuel peut régler équitablement les droits de toutes les parties intéressées en pareille circonstance, sans avoir recours à une législation exceptionnelle.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think the objection of the hon. gentleman from Woodstock (Mr. Alexander) is well taken. This is a public bill introduced by the Government, and I do not think it has been the practice to refer bills of that sort to any committee; I think perhaps the Government are judicious in referring it to a special committee, consisting partly of members of the Opposition, because in that way the Government get rid of a great portion of the responsibility, which perhaps, properly ought to rest on their shoulders alone. I think that the Hon. Minister of Justice has shewn a great deal of judgment in the selection of the committee, and I feel that the bill could not be in better hands than those in which he proposes to put it. I rise chiefly for the purpose of saying, that I presume—I wish to get an expression from the leader of the Government in this House on the subject—that there will be the fullest opportunity to consider the bill in detail when the report of the committee comes up, and that we shall have just as ample opportunity to discuss the details of the bill as if it had not been referred to this committee, but had gone to a committee of the whole House.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Certainly.

The motion was agreed to.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES' BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (B) "An Act respecting County Court Judges."

He said—Great difficulty has been