

was done at the hon. gentleman's own request. His amendment is now before the House, and it is open to any hon. member to move a sub-amendment.

HON. MR. MCINNIS (B.C.)—The point that the hon. gentleman raises is this: that the leader cannot move a sub-amendment to his own motion. That objection is removed by the sub-amendment being moved by another gentleman.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I want the decision of the Speaker. The hon. gentleman from Halifax has not given a statement of the facts. There are three motions before the House: 1st, the motion for third reading; 2nd, my amendment; 3rd, the amendment of the leader of the House to my amendment. That is what is before the Chair, and until that is decided there is no use in explaining what is passed. This is the position of the matter, and by it I stand.

THE SPEAKER—I shall try to put the matter as clearly as I can. I did put the motion for the third reading, and not seeing the hon. gentleman rise, I pronounced it carried. The clerk stood up to read the Bill the third time, when the hon. gentleman rose to move his amendment, and the House desired that the Bill should be placed in the same position as if I had not pronounced the third reading. The hon. gentleman was then at liberty to move his motion in amendment to the motion that the Bill be read the third time presently. It is now in order to move an amendment to the amendment.

HON. MR. SMITH — I move in amendment to the amendment—

HON. MR. LACOSTE—To avoid all difficulty, I would request the hon. gentleman from Amherst to move the amendment, seconded by me.

THE SPEAKER—It is moved by the hon. Mr. Dickey in amendment to the amendment, seconded by the hon. Mr. Lacoste,—

That all the words after "that" be struck out, and the following substituted:—

"In the opinion of this House it is inexpedient to renew and continue previous agitation by rejecting the solution of a grave difficulty which is offered by the said proviso, and which has been approved by the people through their representatives in Parliament; and that the said proviso stand part of the Bill."

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I would like to ask, for the information of this House, what position will this Bill be left in, provided the amendment to the amendment is carried? Will it alter the position of affairs in any way, from a mere vote, yea or nay, upon the amendment?

HON. MR. SCOTT—Practically, it does not alter the Bill at all; it is merely an expression of opinion by the House.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I want to support the Bill as it came into the House. This is a House of Parliament, not a public meeting, and we must be governed by rules, for if we make a mistake to-day it becomes a precedent to-morrow. As I understand it, if the amendment is carried the Bill must go back to committee; if the amendment is lost the Bill will be carried. If the amendment to the amendment is carried it leaves the Bill in the same position.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—If the amendment to the amendment is carried we have then to vote the third reading of the Bill. It destroys the amendment.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The vote will be on the main motion as amended.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—If the amendment of the hon. gentleman from Delanaudière is lost, the Bill is carried and read the third time. This amendment to the amendment leaves the Bill in the same position; it does not alter the Bill in any way.

HON. MR. SCOTT—No.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Then what is the necessity for it?

HON. MR. SCOTT—It destroys the amendment.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Will not the vote of the House destroy the amendment if it is lost?

HON. MR. LACOSTE—The sub-amendment will destroy the amendment, and will also give our reasons for destroying it.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Where is the reason?

HON. MR. LACOSTE—It is a compromise. We give our reasons for voting against the amendment. My hon. friend