

have the Bill reprinted as amended, should mean that the Bill should be reprinted in French as well as English.

Mr. MACKENZIE. So it is.

Mr. OUMET. I have had the Bill as reprinted in English, but I could not get it in French. It has certainly not been distributed, and I pretend that we have a right to it, and we shall insist on that right. This Bill, as it now stands reprinted, would be a disgrace to our Statutes. But I shall reserve further remarks on it until it is reprinted in French.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I shall vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Montmagny. I must say, however, that we, the French members, do not always insist, as we have a right to do, that motions and other proceedings be read in both languages. Very often, in order to expedite business, in order that the time of the House may not be taken up by reading all the documents and proceedings in French, we waive the right and say "dispense." But hon. gentlemen should understand that though we may waive that right, they should not try to refuse it to us. This Bill has not been reprinted in French, though there was a formal Order of the House that the Bill should be reprinted as amended; and, Mr. Speaker, you have admitted that it was the understanding of the House that it should be reprinted in French as well as in English, and the First Minister has expressed the same opinion. Now, if that Bill had been reprinted only in French, I wonder whether those hon. gentlemen who are not willing now to delay its consideration because it is not printed in French, would not have insisted on the Bill being reprinted in the language which they understand best. Of course, I am not speaking for myself alone; I understand both languages and am able to speak them fluently enough to be understood, but it is a right, and when our right is contested, we must insist upon it. I am sure all will admit that this right is not left to the will of the majority of the House; it is a right we have by the Constitution of the country, and I must ask you, Mr. Speaker, that that right of ours be recognized and acted upon. For my part, I have often waived my right to have these papers read in both languages, but if that right is contested, of course we shall have to insist upon it strictly, and have all documents, all motions, and all proceedings read in both languages.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am very sorry that our friends from the Province of Quebec take the position they do in this matter, and for this reason, that at this stage of the Session, the point they take is equivalent to a defeat of the Bill. The rest of the Bill has been acted upon, except the amendment I moved the other night. It is simply an amendment providing for the punishment of seduction under promise of marriage, limiting the act to twenty-one years. This amendment, now before the House, has been printed in French as well as in English, and has been in the Votes and Proceedings since the day of the last debate took place. This amendment could not be incorporated in the Bill. The point raised by my hon. friend, the Minister of Public Works, does not hold, because all the information he desires is already printed in French, and, Sir, I cannot but consider the objection raised to be not upon the point of the matter not being printed in French, but as an objection raised for the purpose of assassinating the Bill. The Bill cannot be reached again if this motion for the adjournment of the debate passes. Under cover of asking that the Bill be printed in French, the motion is directed against the provisions of this Bill as it stands; and although I would extend the utmost courtesy to the members from Quebec, I feel disposed to hold that the request is not a reasonable one. I assert that the papers, the motion, the amendment, are all in French; that those gentlemen have everything that they require in the French language in reference to this Bill, and the reprinting of

this Bill in French will not enlighten them in the slightest degree. The Bill as it stands before the House now is simply the Bill as it was first introduced, printed in French, and with the one part of the clause which was struck out, reinserted—that with reference to seduction under promise of marriage. I regret very much that this course has been taken. I must say that I recognize in the course that is taken, a desire, not to get information in French, but a desire to kill the Bill, under the pretext that it has not been reprinted in French.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. My attention is called to the fact that the hon. member has made an accusation that ought not to have been made.

Mr. CHARLTON. If I have made any accusation, or said anything in my remarks that was unparliamentary, or was unkindly to my French friends, I am very sorry. But it strikes me that they are quite able to understand this Bill without waiting seven or eight days to have this amendment, which, as I have said, has already been printed in French for several days, reprinted in French again.

Mr. VALIN (Translation). Mr. Speaker, I believe we are entitled to a French copy of this amendment. Among the members of this House, are a great many lawyers, but we are not all lawyers, and it is of the utmost importance that laymen—such as myself—who do not always understand the somewhat exclusive wording of the law should have a copy printed in French, of this Bill, in order to get information on the actual bearing of such an important Bill as this. Moreover there is a rule stating that both languages will be used in this House, and I for one will insist on its being carried out. We will have to give explanations as to our conduct, and it is important that we should know what we are doing, because it is a question of marriage, and marriage is always a very interesting matter. The crime, for the punishment of which this Bill provides, also requires all our attention. Before taking a decision we will have to consult persons thoroughly conversant with the law. I, for one, am not prepared to express an opinion until this Bill and the motion amending it shall have been printed in French, for one word misunderstood might perhaps be sufficient to put us in a false position, and we would be very sorry to give a vote which would be detrimental to the Province of Quebec or to the French speaking people.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Translation). After the peremptory reasons just given by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Valin) I have no more to say.

Motion agreed to on a division, and debate adjourned.

Mr. LANDRY (Montmagny) moved that the Bill be printed in both languages, together with the proposed amendment.

Motion agreed to.

FRAUD IN RELATION TO CONTRACTS.

Mr. CASGRAIN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on Bill (No. 12) for the better prevention of fraud in relation to contracts involving the expenditure of public moneys.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Before the House resolves itself into Committee, perhaps the hon. gentleman will be kind enough to explain in what shape the Bill came from the Special Committee?

Mr. CASGRAIN. The Bill was passed by the Special Committee with an amendment. The most simple way is to read the Bill, which is as follows:—

“1. Whosoever, for the purpose of assisting in any election to the Parliament of Canada, or to the Legislature of any of the Provinces of Canada, while performing any such contract as in the first section of the