

Private Bills—Divorce

court on which the court could find that the lady in question was feeble-minded, insane, an idiot or an imbecile. The whole burden is upon the crown. Even where the lady in question was in fact an imbecile the crown may have a difficult time proving it.

Mr. Nesbitt: I can recall only one case where we were able to prove that the crown's chief witness was an imbecile. That was a case where the girl was 22 years old but was still playing with three-year-old girls.

Mr. Hansell: Those who have spoken in opposition to the amendment appear to believe that an increased penalty would necessarily be imposed, but that is not so. This would be just a maximum penalty, and its imposition would be the responsibility of the presiding judge. I do not think their argument holds good in that respect, but this would impress upon the judge that parliament considers the crime to be a serious one.

I am not allowed to discuss clause 142, but I would point out that the penalty in the case of incest between a brother and sister is a maximum of 14 years. In the case of a male being responsible for the crime he is also subject to whipping. The crime covered by clause 142 is very serious because it is realized that the offspring of blood relatives may be imbecilic.

The same thing could be said in connection with clause 140 which we are now discussing. It might be argued that a man who would take advantage of an imbecilic woman was himself not altogether sane, but that just does not follow. I knew of one case in my previous work where the man was perfectly sane, he knew exactly what he was doing, but it was advantageous for him to proceed because the woman was mentally deficient. I do not feel we are doing the accused any harm, and we would be strengthening the hands of the judge and strengthening the law by providing for a maximum penalty of ten years, even though it is not imposed.

Clause stands.

Progress reported.

PRIVATE BILLS**SECOND READINGS—SENATE BILLS**

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that these divorce bills be taken in one motion?

Mr. Knowles: How many are there, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Nos. 199 to 249 inclusive. Fifty bills.

Mr. Knowles: Fifty-one, I believe.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed these bills be taken in one motion?

[Mr. Garson.]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. John Hunter (Parkdale) moved that the following bills be read the second time:

Bill No. 199, for the relief of Lois Helen Kutzman Caplan.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 200, for the relief of Fernand Constant Daemen.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 201, for the relief of Mary Kazymerchyk Senyck.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 202, for the relief of Rosalie Hetty Arbess Sofin.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 203, for the relief of Lucille Lafortune Wilson.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 204, for the relief of Wilfrid Cote.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 205, for the relief of Janca Fani Pollak Schlesinger.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 206, for the relief of Sadie Marie Ansingh Grosheintz.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 207, for the relief of Douglas Morrison Meldrum.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 208, for the relief of Alec Lenetsky.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 209, for the relief of Dorothy Lilian Asbury Davies.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 210, for the relief of Nicholas Krauchuke.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 211, for the relief of Esther Kohn Rosner.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 212, for the relief of Marguerite Jazzar Nassar.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 213, for the relief of Leona Bobby Denberg Wiseman, otherwise known as Leona Bobby Denberg White.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 214, for the relief of Marianne Roos Axelrad.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 215, for the relief of Margaret Jaunzen Dishler.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 216, for the relief of Pearl Witzling Socolow.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 217, for the relief of Jennie Chun Readman.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 218, for the relief of Gizella Szabo Herczeg.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 219, for the relief of Liliya Hedviga Treimane Jursevskis.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 220, for the relief of John Richard Maher.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 221, for the relief of Elizabeth McDonald Jones Roy.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 222, for the relief of Claire Viola Frechette Ainsworth.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 223, for the relief of Margaret Reta Dodge Parsons.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 224, for the relief of Estella Cluett Jensen.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 225, for the relief of Angelina Natale Beaucaire.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 226, for the relief of Dorothy Miller Osborough Davidson.—Mr. Hunter.