

people lower down the banks of the stream, I may say that we have no more control in that respect than any private individual. That is, we cannot take from or deny to those below their water rights.

Mr. GARDINER: What provision is made to lease water powers within the parks; will such leasing be controlled by parliament or by regulations?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): By parliament.

Mr. GARDINER: And the same in regard to minerals—an act of parliament will have to be passed before any lease is granted?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Will not the minister add those words he mentioned to subsection 2 of section 7, so that the subsection will read:

All regulations made hereunder shall be published in the Canada Gazette for a period of thirty days, and shall thereupon have the same force and effect as if herein enacted.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I have no objection.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It would be better to make it read that the regulation shall not come into force until thirty days after publication.

Mr. CANNON: I move to amend subsection 2 of section 7 by adding after the words "Canada Gazette" in the second line the following words:

"for a period of thirty days."

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 38, respecting the *Highwood Western Railway Company*—Mr. Coote.

Bill No. 57, respecting the *Confederation Life Association*—Mr. Anderson (Toronto-High Park).

Bill No. 113, respecting the capital stock of the *Ottawa Electric Railway Company*—Mr. Chevrier.

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMEN TO ESTABLISH DOMICILE

Mr. W. J. WARD (Dauphin) moved the second reading of Bill No. 31, respecting jurisdiction in proceedings for divorce.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Explain.

Mr. WARD: The bill before the house is very simple and very limited in its scope, and I should not think it would be the subject of very much discussion. At the outset I wish to make it very clear that it is not my intention, nor is it the purpose of the bill, in any way to widen the grounds in order to make divorce easier. We recognize that there is a very considerable section of the people of Canada, and indeed a number of the members of this house, who on conscientious grounds object to the granting of divorce, but the purpose of this bill is merely to establish equality of status as between husband and wife in the case of a woman who has been deserted for a period of two years and upwards and that she may make application for divorce in the province in which the husband was domiciled at the time of such desertion.

As the law stands at present a woman must apply for a divorce in the province in which the husband is domiciled at the time the application is made. I am sure the house will readily see how inconvenient, if not impossible, it would be for a woman of moderate or small means, working for her living and bringing up several small children, to travel from province to province in an effort to run down or catch up with the husband who a few years before deserted her. I have in mind the case of a young woman, the mother of two children, who was deserted by a scoundrel of a husband some four or five years ago. By her own efforts she has established a home and has maintained and educated her children in a way that would be a credit to anyone. Yet for that woman to secure a divorce it would be necessary for her to travel to another province about a thousand miles from where she now lives and where she was deserted.

As a layman I never have been able to understand why we should have one standard for criminal and civil law and quite a different standard for moral law. If a woman commits a crime she pays the same penalty as a man, but a man may commit several moral offences and have discrimination shown in his favour. I hope parliament now is ready to apologize to the women of Canada for the great injustice that has been done them during all these years and is prepared to pass this