

TRADES' UNIONS

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved for leave to introduce a bill respecting Trades' Unions. He explained that the measure, or rather measures, for there were two of them, which he would ask leave to introduce, although he had given notice only of one, was based upon the Imperial Statute upon the same subject. His attention, and the attention of everyone interested in the prosperity of Canada, had been called lately to the fact, that the law relating to Trades' Unions, with the civil and the criminal side, was not the same as in England, and that the English mechanic who came to this country, as well as the Canadian mechanic, was subject to penalties imposed by statutes that had been repealed in England, as opposed to the spirit of the liberty of the individual.

He proposed a law, the same in principle as the law of England, so that operatives from the Mother Country would have the same freedom of action, and the same right to combine for the accomplishment of lawful objects, as they had in England. (*Hear, hear.*) The subject was too important to be taken *ab initio* without great care and study, and it was only since the opening of Parliament that his attention had been called to it. He had not thought it well to embrace in the bill all the points which were involved in the battle that was going on between labour and capital. The subject of the relations between these two was engaging the attention of able minds in England, whose deliberations, he had no doubt, would eventuate in the introduction of a comprehensive system, possibly with the sanction and authority of Her Majesty's Government, in the next Session of the Imperial Parliament.

In the meanwhile he proposed to proceed with these measures, one of which was the complement of the other, because it affected the civil branch of the law relating to Trades' Unions while the other affected the criminal branch. He moved for leave to bring in the bills.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked if he understood the hon. gentleman to say that he did not purpose to proceed with these measures during this session.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said his intention was to proceed. The subject was under discussion in England, and the result would probably be a still further improvement in the law there. If such proved to be the case the Parliament of Canada would have an opportunity of profiting by that legislation; but in the meantime these measures would be proposed for the consideration of the House.

The bills were then severally read a first time.

* * *

THE REPRESENTATION BILL

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE desired to ask a question respecting the Representation Bill which ought to have been introduced before

now. Perhaps the hon. gentleman could explain the reason for this delay, and state that the bill would be down this week.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he certainly could not promise it this week. As his hon. friend could well understand a number of suggestions from all parts of the country—(*Hear*)—and affecting every constituency from Lambton downwards, had to be considered before the Government proposed a plan of readjustment. This was an almost endless task, but he thought he had got nearly through it, and that he would be able shortly to bring down the bill, although he could not name a day this week.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE hoped the hon. gentleman would not trouble himself about Lambton, for he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) would take the most difficult part upon himself, so far as that constituency was concerned. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he knew his hon. friend had enough difficulties there, and therefore he had taken some of them on himself. (*Laughter.*)

SATURDAY SESSION

In reply to Mr. Masson (Soulanges).

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Government would announce to-morrow whether they would ask the House to sit on Saturday.

* * *

GOVERNMENT DAYS

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the Government would like to get a third day in the week for their business, and if the House had no objection they would take Wednesdays, commencing to-morrow week.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said it appeared to him there was an overwhelming amount of private business, some of which might well have been left to the Local legislatures to deal with. This would make it difficult for the house to give the Government another day, but it might be managed so that what time was left on private days after measures in the hands of private members were disposed of might be given to the Government, provided the Government gave the residue of time on their days if they had no business to proceed with. He thought an arrangement of that kind would greatly facilitate the work of the House. The subject then dropped.

* * *

PATENTS OF INVENTION

Hon. Mr. POPE moved the House into Committee to consider the following resolution:—