

but I must ask why Mr. LaRue's place is taken, representing as he did somewhat the French Canadian element, by a member of a different nationality?

Mr. BLAKE. The Committee is not altogether the same; there is another change; Mr. Masson is succeeded by Mr. Mousseau.

Mr. LANDRY. I thought the Committee was the same as last year and that the only change consisted in substituting Mr. McCarthy for Mr. LaRue.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Mousseau takes Mr. Masson's place.

Mr. LANDRY. There is nothing to affect us in that change, but in the other case we lose a member, and I think that in all that concerns French literature, we are not in such strength that we can afford not to at least hold our own.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will examine the composition of the Committee, he will perceive that if Mr. McCarthy takes Mr. LaRue's place, that nevertheless the Committee's composition is excellent as the names of Messrs. Fortin, Houde, Mousseau and Tassé are on it, and he may feel assured that the literary and historical interests of our Province will be in safe keeping in the hands of these gentlemen, even if we do not take it into consideration the French propensities of several other members of the Committee; it would have been impossible to do better under the circumstances, and if the hon. member will look at the composition of the Committee from an Upper Canadian point of view, he will find that under the circumstances it was but fair that Mr. LaRue should be succeeded by the hon. member.

Motion agreed to.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 8) respecting the Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada.—(Mr. Beatty.)

Bill (No. 10) to provide that persons charged with misdemeanors shall be competent as witnesses.—(Mr. Cameron, Huron.)

Bill (No. 11) to amend the Criminal Law, and to extend the provisions of the Act respecting offences against the person.—(Mr. Cameron, Huron.)

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Mr. GIROUARD (Jacques Cartier) introduced a Bill (No. 9) concerning marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Mr. BLAKE. Will the hon. gentleman be kind enough to tell us whether this measure is the same as that which passed the Commons last Session?

Mr. GIROUARD. Not altogether the same. That portion of the Bill passed last Session which referred to the widow of the brother has been eliminated; that is about all the difference. The Bill reads in this way: "All laws prohibiting marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife are hereby repealed." The Bill will not affect in any manner existing vested rights.

Bill read the first time.

ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. IVES, in introducing Bill (No. 12) further to amend "The Dominion Elections Act, 1874," said: The object of the Bill is to amend a section of the Act, which provides that all candidates for election to the House of Commons shall deposit the sum of \$50,

Mr. LANDRY.

which becomes a contribution to the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the country. It seems to me that when we have a surplus of \$6,000,000 or \$8,000,000 the country can afford to pay the expenses of the general elections. In the place of that provision the amendment proposes to substitute the provision of the local Quebec Act, which, in my opinion, is much preferable. By the provision of the Quebec Act, each candidate makes a deposit of \$200. This is returned to him if he is elected, or if he succeeds in obtaining one-third of the votes polled. In fact, it is a provision which insures good faith in candidature, and in a measure will prevent candidates from being proposed from a mere desire for notoriety, or even from a more unworthy object. The provision of this amendment does away with the contribution to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and provides for the same deposit as provided by the Quebec Act.

Bill read the first time.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

Mr. FARROW enquired, Is it the intention of the Government this Session to provide greater security in sending moneys by registered letter by charging extra for registration purposes according to amounts sent, and the Government to be responsible in case the money is lost?

Mr. O'CONNOR. The question has not yet been considered by the Government.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

Mr. POPE (Compton) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General;

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message as follows:—

LORNE,

The Governor General transmits, for the information of the House of Commons,—Copy of the Numerical Census of the Dominion of Canada, taken under the Act 42 Victoria, Chapter 21.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

OTTAWA, 16th February, 1882.

DRAWBACKS ON SHEET IRON.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all correspondence with the Customs Department on the subject of drawbacks on duty paid on sheet iron for nail making to the extent of the export of the nails made from such iron, said: I do not know what may be the extent of this correspondence, but there has been placed in my hands a copy of a letter written to the Customs Department, under date of July, 1881, enquiring, on behalf of a person engaged in this trade, whether the firm could get back the duty paid on sheet iron for nail making to the extent of the nails exported; and a copy of another letter, dated 8th September, 1881, referring to the former letter, and conveying the intimation that no answer had yet been received to that communication. I believe that no answer has yet been received to either of those two letters. There may have been some correspondence with other merchants on the subject, or, on the other hand, with those engaged in manufacturing sheet iron for nail making, such as the Londonderry Works for example. I wish to get all the correspondence whether with manufacturers or merchants; and I should have been glad to have had some explanation from the Minister of Customs of how it happened that a letter upon a subject so interesting to the trade of Canada should have remained unanswered from July last until to-day.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am unable to give an answer to the hon. gentleman, because the hon. the Minister of Customs is not present; but I am sure, when he is in his place, he will be able to give a satisfactory reason for the letter in question remaining so long unanswered.

Motion agreed to.