

what I consider to be a vicious principle, a result of departing from long-established usage in relation to the marriage tie. It is another step showing the vicious principle of the measure we adopted a few years ago. It destroys all the friendly relationships between the family of the wife and the family of the husband. The House having passed a law to permit a man to marry his own sister-in-law, I have no doubt that they will also come to the conclusion that, as a natural consequence of that step, they must legalize marriage with a deceased wife's niece. I am opposed to it on principle, but I presume my hon. friend will get his Bill through.

HON. MR. POWER—I hope my hon. colleague will not be irritated with me when I take the liberty of saying that I cordially agree with his view in regard to this Bill, and that he will not think I prejudice the chances of his measure by making this statement. I voted with the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg when the Bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister was before the House, but I think my hon. colleague from Halifax is quite right in saying that to be just and logical we should go a little further than we did then, and that we should legislate in the direction of this Bill. I rose, however, chiefly for the purpose of suggesting to my hon. colleague that his Bill does not go quite far enough. I think, instead of saying the daughter of a deceased wife's sister, the Bill should say the niece of the deceased wife, because why should not a man be allowed to marry the daughter of his deceased wife's brother as well as the daughter of the deceased wife's sister?

HON. MR. ALMON—I will be very happy to have the hon. gentleman's support in this matter, but the reason I did not adopt the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman was this: the Bill we passed in relation to a deceased wife's sister did not permit a woman to marry the brother of her deceased husband, and that was my reason for leaving the children of the deceased wife's brother out of the question.

HON. MR. MILLER—I do not desire to prolong the discussion on this question, and do not consider it necessary, as I take it for granted that this Bill is the logical outcome of the Act passed some years ago to legalize a man's marriage with his

deceased wife's sister. I do not think there could be any objection to marriage with the daughter of the deceased wife's sister, who is one degree further removed from the deceased wife than the sister; therefore, whatever objection there might be, there can be none with regard to consanguinity. There could be only an objection on the ground of affinity, being within the prohibited degrees. I do not intend to argue the case, as my hon. friend from Halifax has stated pretty much what I feel on this question. I think it is an absurdity that our law should stand as it is—that a man should be permitted to marry the sister of his deceased wife and not the daughter.

The motion was agreed to on a division, and the Bill was read the second time.

THE PATENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (17) "An Act to amend 'The Patent Act.'" He said: The principle of this Bill is to take from the Minister the decision of legal questions arising upon patents, and conferring the power of making those decisions upon the courts. At present, if a dispute arises as to the validity of a patent or as to the validity of its continuance, it is the Minister who has to hear and decide the question. It is thought that that is more a subject for consideration by the court, and it is proposed to give it to the court, as we did the other day with respect to trade marks. The second object of the Bill is merely to correct some verbal omissions and alterations in the existing law.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (7) "An Act further to amend 'The Dominion Elections Act,'" Chapter eight of the Revised Statutes of Canada.

HON. MR. CLEMOW from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The report was received and adopted.