

gentlemen to move for reconsideration on these important points; and this is an important difficulty, because it affects the successful working of the Bill in the Province of Quebec. As regards the remarks of my hon. friend from Victoria, I think that, on the whole, we had better accept his suggestion. They are inconveniences, certainly, which my hon. friend who sits near me (Mr. McCarthy) pointed out, and business may be obstructed by the absence of one of the Commissioners. This is one of the few cases where there is such a condition of things; but they can be postponed until these parties can be got together; and, therefore, I shall move to have this struck out. I hope that the hon. gentleman will not press his motion in amendment.

Mr. JAMIESON. I feel strongly in favor of retaining the provision for the appointment of County Court Judges. I was a Chairman of a Board of License Commissioners for several years, and perhaps I can give some idea as to the labor which is involved in the discharge of these duties. I think that perhaps half-a-dozen hours in a year would be sufficient—at least that is the result of my experience.

Mr. HALL. As we understand that the matter is to be referred to again, of course I accept the suggestion of the right hon. gentleman and will not press my motion. I think there is a great deal of force in the suggestion made by him, that it would not be wise to trouble the Government with a selection from a number of different persons, and, therefore, to meet that view, I am willing to strike out the names of all the officials with the exception of the Prothonotary—who is an official of high standing—to remove that difficulty. Even as to that, however, I am willing to defer it for the present for further consideration. I think, however, we should not pass over this branch of the subject without consideration of the retention by the Government of the power of filling vacancies, if any occur.

Mr. AMYOT. It must be well understood that the Province of Quebec is unanimous in demanding that the Registrars should be substituted for the Judges. We want it; and I do not see why the Bill should be passed otherwise.

Mr. AUGER. I rise to say that we are not unanimous, because I think that the Judge is the proper person for this position. As to the Prothonotary the member for Montreal Centre said that by appointing the Prothonotary there would be no trouble about the Registrar, as there was only one, but in the District of Bedford we have two Prothonotaries.

Mr. BLAKE. The Minister's observations, in moving the second reading of the Bill, had the merit of brevity, but not in the definition of this clause, of accuracy, because he stated that the Commission appointed by the clause was to hold office during good behavior, whereas I find that it is for one year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I did not say so.

Mr. BLAKE. You said during good behaviour.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I did not intend to say so. It was a *lapsus*. I read the clause as it stood.

Mr. VAIL. Can the Governor in Council make two districts of one county, as in our Province some counties are divided into separate municipalities?

Mr. BLAKE. It is not elastic enough for that.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, it is.

Mr. BLAKE. You cannot under the Bill take two counties and make one district out of them.

Mr. GIGAULT. In the Province of Quebec, the Judge chosen as one of the Commissioners, has to go through three or four counties in a district. The meetings of the Board take place in March, when he would have to visit three counties to attend the meetings. In some districts, there are five counties, and if the suggestion of the member for

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Victoria is accepted, I am sure that in our Province, the Judge will be absent from the meeting in some counties, and it will be almost impossible to obtain some decisions as to the granting of licenses. I think that this sub-section four is absolutely necessary, chiefly in the Province of Quebec, because the Judge has there to visit many counties.

Mr. CURRAN. I do not think that the last objection holds. If we retain Judges of the Superior Court, the sittings of the different Boards can be arranged and each particular Board can meet at a fixed time, so that one will not interfere with another. My idea in suggesting a Prothonotary was merely this: that it met to a very great extent the idea of the leader of the Opposition with regard to persons having proper relation to the other members of the Board and community at large. In most judicial districts of the Province of Quebec, in the country parts, the Prothonotary is at the same time Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Crown, and gives him the position that has been suggested as the proper one for that office. However, I take this opportunity to say that there is no such thing as unanimity among the members from the Province of Quebec, that the Judge of the Superior Court should be set aside. We would prefer, if possible, Prothonotaries, but no decided principle is at stake.

Mr. BLAKE. The measure seems to be declared inadvertently with reference to the second Commissioner, to be without due regard to the condition of things in Nova Scotia, where many counties are divided into more than one municipality, into two municipalities; and according to the municipal system there, there is a Warden for each municipality, and no county Warden. Take Queen's, there is one Warden; Shelburne has two districts, Barington and Shelburne each having a Warden; the county of Guysborough is the same, and also Digby and Hants, as I am told, so that when you say you will make the district coterminous with either the county or the electoral district, and you find two Wardens in the county, now which is king?

Mr. LANDRY. I think the nomination of Judges for this office in the Province of Quebec will be impossible. If you take our electoral or judicial districts, there are five or six counties, L'Islet, Montmagny, Bellechasse, part of Levis, Dorchester, and Beauce, and the Judge would be compelled to assist in the criminal court so that he could not be available. He would be a member of six Boards during that time.

Mr. RICHEY. With reference to the observations made by my hon. friend opposite, I suppose it could be arranged so that where there are two Wardens, one of the Wardens might be appointed.

Mr. BLAKE. Then you would have a Board consisting of different men for each district.

Mr. RICHEY. The Government in Council have the power reserved to them of defining the district.

Mr. BLAKE. Then it amounts to this: that there should be a division of the district smaller than the county, smaller than the electoral district, simply because you have two Wardens. In Ontario we have counties and electoral districts, with twelve or thirteen municipalities, and you are putting them all into one district. There must be some method of defining what Warden shall be a member unless the district is coterminous with the area over which there is a Warden.

Mr. RICHEY. The responsibility is thrown upon the Governor in Council of defining those districts, and they are to be as nearly as possible coterminous with the existing bounds of the county and electoral districts, and if this amendment is made so that either of the Wardens can be appointed, or the district is so divided as to include only one of the Wardens, the difficulty would be met.