

Section 129 of the British North America Act refers more definitely than that to certain provinces in Canada. I believe that the constitution of this country should not be lightly framed or lightly changed. I have no doubt that those who will be responsible for the framing and changing of the Canadian constitution will ensure that it possesses a high degree of stability. It must be realized that the items in this resolution refer largely to matters of property and civil rights, which properly belong to the provinces. This resolution deals with an important matter, and in view of approaching events, of which we shall need special knowledge, I think it proper that it should have been placed before the Senate at this time. So, with the reservations I have outlined, I have pleasure in seconding the resolution, and I hope that it will be referred to the appropriate Senate committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Beaubien the debate was adjourned.

BANKRUPTCY BILL

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill F, an Act respecting Bankruptcy.

Hon. A. B. Copp: Honourable senators, in the absence of the chairman of the Banking and Commerce Committee (Hon. Mr. Farris), I move concurrence in the amendments made by the committee on Bill F, an Act respecting bankruptcy.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the bill, as amended, be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Copp: With leave of the Senate, now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT AMENDMENT

ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY—MOTION

On the order for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Farris, that an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, requesting an amendment to the British North America Act, 1867.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I had hoped to be able to speak this afternoon, but I have had so much work to do that I am not ready to go on. If any other senator

wishes to continue the debate now, I am quite willing that he do so, and I will avail myself, not of the rule, but of the practice that would permit me to adjourn the debate further. I do not want to prevent anyone from going ahead at this time.

Hon. Mr. Copp: I had hoped, as my honourable friend opposite did, that we should be able to proceed with the debate on this important resolution today. I understand that other senators wish to speak. It is desirable to have the resolution passed this afternoon, if possible, in order that we may adjourn over to next week. I fear that if the debate is not concluded today we shall have to sit again tomorrow. Any other honourable senator who is planning to participate in the debate may speak now.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Honourable senators, I had hoped to be able to add a word or two to the valuable contributions that have already been made to this debate, but I must say that my thoughts on the matter have not yet been crystallized, and I am not yet sure just what the scope of my remarks should be. In the circumstances I would prefer to be allowed a little more time to prepare what I have to say. I had understood that it was desirable to have the motion adopted in time to be sent to England early next week. If the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) would care to speak now, I will gladly give way, for the reasons stated.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I have asked the house to permit me to adjourn the debate, and it is up to the house to grant or refuse my request. So as to place myself quite in order, I now move, seconded by the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine), that the debate be adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Copp: Honourable senators, I regret very much to have to say that I cannot fully co-operate with my friend in his motion. The senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) was right in saying that it is desired to have the resolution sent to England next week. I find myself sitting between two stools, as it were. My leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson), who is unavoidably absent, told me he was anxious to have the resolution put through today. It has been widely discussed in the other house and in the press, and we should like to have the Senate's debate concluded this week, if at all possible. In the circumstances, unless some other senator is ready to proceed, I unfortunately have to oppose my honourable friend's motion.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I cannot help that.