The Legal News.

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LEGISLATION AT OTTAWA.

Mr. Girouard, Q.C., has again introduced his Bill concerning marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The measure is the same as that which passed the Commons last Session, except the omission of the portion which referred to the widow of the brother. The Bill now introduced proposes to repeal all laws prohibiting marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife, but vested rights are not to be interfered with. The promoters of the measure anticipate that it will pass both Houses this Session. The second reading was carried on division in the Commons, Feb. 23, 137 for, and 34 against.

The Hon. Mr. Blake has moved for a copy of the judgment of Mr. Justice Jetté in *Laramée* v. *Evans* (5 L. N. 51). As leave to appeal from the interlocutory judgment in question has been granted, and the case is now actually pending before the Court of Appeal, it was not easy to divine the motive for adopting this mode of obtaining information which might be had in the ordinary way. But we see by the *Hansard* report that Mr. Blake simply wishes to have an authenticated copy for use in the discussion on Mr. Girouard's bill.

Mr. Blake, by another resolution, directs attention to the expediency, in appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada, of accepting the printed records in the courts below for the purpose of the appeal, without requiring the reprint of the same matter. Something should certainly be done to prevent the useless duplication of printed matter. The burdens imposed on unsuccessful suitors are heavy enough without needless additions. A uniform page might be prescribed in all the Courts for printed factums, &c., and it would then be a simple matter to bind up what has already been printed for the courts below with the factums before the Supreme Court or Privy Council. It may also be mentioned that the parties sometimes go to considerable expense in printing opinions of judges in the courts below, the text of which has already appeared in reports of the cases.

Mr. Landry, with a manifestation of antiquarian spirit not often observed in Canada, seems to have wished the Government to accept seriously the suggestion thrown out by the Governor-General in a holiday speech at Quebec, in June, 1880, in which the noble Marquis is reported to have said:—"The very usages in "the Parliament of Britain survive from the "days when they were planted there by our "Norman ancestors. I do not know that it has "been observed before in Canada, but it has "often occurred to me that in the British Par- "liament we still use the old words used by "your fathers for the sanction of the Sovereign "given to bills, of *La reyne le veult*, or *la reyne* "*remercie ses bon sujets, accepte leur bénévolence*, "*et ainsi le veult*, forms which I should like to "see used at Ottawa, as marking our common "origin, instead of the practice that prevails of "translating into modern French and English." The Premier, in reply, pointed out that the form suggested would be an innovation, the form now adopted having been used in Canada ever since it has possessed representative institutions, and is sanctioned by the Constitutional Act.

A bill has been promised in the Speech from the Throne, amending the Acts relating to the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Justice Taschereau, at a dinner given to him by the Montreal Bar on the 11th instant, stated that the Judges of the Court had received no intimation of the proposed amendments.

THE TEMPORALITIES CASE.

Constitutional cases have come rather thickly of late, and have occupied more space than we like to take from the ordinary work of the courts. The difficulties which arise under our new constitution are so numerous and formidable, however, that we think our readers will be glad to have the views of the Imperial Court in a convenient form at the earliest moment, and we have therefore given up our space this week to the decision of the Privy Council in the long controverted case of *Dobie* v. *The Board*, &c. It will not be forgotten that all the decisions of our Provincial Courts on constitutional questions since Confederation have to be read by the light of these judgments.