

d'Esquimalt à Nanaimo.' Even as far back as 1884 section 3, chap. 6, in the French edition of the statutes, the name of the company is given in French. So that in the statutes for five years we have the designation of a company given in French and then in 1908, after a lapse of 24 years from the date of the first mention of the name of the company in 1884, the English designation is substituted for the French in the French edition of the statutes.

Then again, let us take Bill (No. 16) for 1908, an Act concerning 'The South Ontario Pacific Company;' in the statutes for the four years, 1887, 1891, 1896 and 1906, the designation of the company is given in French in the French edition. Bill (No. 19) for 1908, an Act incorporating 'The Bank of Winnipeg;' in all acts previous to 1903 the designation of the bank was given in French in the French edition of the Act. Bill (No. 21) for 1908, an Act concerning 'The British Yukon Railway Company;' in the French edition of the statutes for 1897, incorporating the company, it is designated as 'La compagnie de mines, de commerce et de transport du Yukon britannique.' In the French edition of the statutes for 1900, 63-64 Vict., chap. 55, the name is changed to that of 'Compagnie du chemin de fer du Yukon britannique.' The same designation is to be found in the French edition of the statutes for 1901.

Bill (No. 20) for 1908, the French version refers to 'The Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Company;' in the French edition of the statutes for 1899, chap. 95, the designation is given thus: 'La compagnie du pont de Belleville-Prince-Edouard.' Bill (No. 24), the French version refers to 'The West Ontario Pacific Railway Company;' but in the French edition of the statutes for 1885 chap. 87, for 1886, chap. 70, for 1887, chap. 62, for 1906 chap. 178 the designation is in every case, 'La compagnie du chemin de fer du Pacific de l'Ouest d'Ontario.'

Here then are several companies whose designations are given in the French edition of the statutes, at times in English and at times in French. It will be found that in Bills (Nos 25, 28 and 30) introduced at this session and having contracts attached, no translation has been made of such contracts, the original English text having been merely inserted in the French edition, against all reason. The hon. member for Chicoutimi and Saguenay has introduced a Bill (No. 42) incorporating 'The Canadian Liverpool and Western Railway Company.' It deals with the building of a railway in the province of Quebec; nevertheless, the designation in the French edition of the Bill is given in English.

What reason is there for such irrelevancies in the French edition of the statutes? I respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that in the fulfilment of your high duties, it would

be proper on your part to take measures towards preventing the turning of the French edition of our laws into a perfect muddle.

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the matter brought up by the hon. member who has just taken his seat, is not one under the control of the government, the translation of the laws being effected by officers of the House appointed by the House, and therefore outside the control of the government. However, the House has a perfect right to discuss this question, and I am not objecting in any way to my hon. friend having thought fit to bring up the matter.

I understand that formerly not only the text of any act incorporating a company was translated into French, but the name of the company as well. For instance the English edition referred to the 'Bank of Montreal,' and the French edition to the 'banque de Montreal.' So that the same institution was known under two different names. The same rule applied in the case of the 'banque Nationale de Québec,' which in the English version was designated as the 'National Bank of Quebec.'

At the time of Mr. Fréchette's appointment as chief translator, he, I think, effected the change referred to by the hon. member, which consists in designating companies under the name given by the petitioners themselves in the petition addressed to parliament. I remember perfectly well that when the 'Banque Provinciale' came up for incorporation, the designation that was given was purely and simply 'La Banque Provinciale.'

To my mind, a great deal may be said in support of the change effected by Mr. Fréchette. I for one am not ready to say it was a mistake on his part. As the hon. member is aware, the designation of a company is in fact the name of a person in the moral sense, and that being the case, should a company be known under two different names?

Mr. PAQUET (L'Islet). (Translation.) If the hon. member will allow me, I have shown a moment ago, that in the French edition, at times, English designations were translated and at others were not. What I am anxious to obtain is uniformity.

Hon. Mr. BRODEUR. (Translation.) The whole question comes to this: is it desirable, as my hon. friend seems to think, that the designations of companies be put in both languages, that is to say that they should appear in French in the French edition, and in English in the English edition? There may be some well-founded objection to this practice. For instance a company might be sued before the courts under two different designations, although constituting a single person in the moral sense. Is it not better that each company should be