

application. He must have known his position and he must accept the consequences of that position; I see no reason why the public should be put to expense for a suit upon a petition which proved to be as groundless as that one was.

HON. MR. READ—Then I will amend it to add the word “stenographer.”

The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (153), “An Act further to amend the Acts respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway and to provide for the completion and successful operation thereof.” (Mr. Smith.)

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House resolved itself into committee of the whole on Bill (103) “An Act respecting the Electoral Franchise.”

In the committee.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I do not know whether hon. members will desire to go through this Bill, clause by clause, the provisions relating to the other branch of Parliament. What seems to be the more convenient way is if hon. gentlemen would draw attention to any particular clause we might discuss that clause and it might not be necessary to go through the Bill in detail. What does the hon. member from Ottawa think of that?

HON. MR. SCOTT—With reference to making amendments to the Bill in committee I did not propose, myself, to offer any at this stage, much preferring any amendment which I have to submit should be at the third reading of the Bill in order that the yeas and nays may be taken. However, other hon. gentlemen may entertain a different view; but that is my suggestion—to offer no amendments in committee. Probably the shorter and simpler way would be to call out the leading words of each clause and then if any hon. gentlemen wish to say anything with reference to it an opportunity will be afforded to do so.

HON. MR. PLUMB.

HON. MR. POWER—I should suggest, as the Minister has a copy of the Bill with marginal notes, it would be sufficient to read the marginal notes to each clause.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I will do that. The first section with several subsections is with reference to the interpretation of terms.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—This interpretation is very important. On the second page, line 10, there is an interpretation with reference to the Chinese, which I think is very important. For my part I should like to protest against that definition.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It is not proposed to give votes to the Chinese at present.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I should like to have a vote upon that.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—My hon. friend could move the amendment at the third reading.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I agree with my hon. friend opposite, but I think it would be better that we should have an explanation why the Chinese are to be deprived of votes. I cannot myself see the propriety of excluding the Mongolians, who have shown themselves to be patient, industrious and law-abiding, from privileges which are given to every other member of the human family in this country.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—We are not troubled here with the Chinese, but perhaps if they were as numerous here in proportion to the population as they are in British Columbia we might share the objection which is entertained to them there.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—The objection to the Chinese is that they are not British subjects. No one desires to give them a vote, and I think this a good provision. I remember at one time that the Chinese were allowed to vote in British Columbia, and the way it worked was this: I used to go round in the mornings and leave my card with the voters, and my