

been marked as printed in the Minutes, as the Clerk assures me that this Bill was sent to him.

MR. SPEAKER: There must be some misunderstanding. I know very well the Bill which was put into my hands bore upon its back the date of the present year.

MR. HOLTON: I presume that was the manuscript, the covering of the Bill. The copy was sent up afterwards probably.

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all; I looked at it.

MR. COLBY: I think the hon. member is in error in saying that this is a copy of the Bill that was placed in your hands. The Bill that was placed in your hands is a duplicate form of the Bill, which will be printed for the second reading without any change whatever. I had an individual memorandum upon the Bill which was placed in your hands, which does not appear upon this Bill. It may refresh your memory, Mr. Speaker, when I remark that, after you had passed that to the Clerk, and the Clerk had returned it to you, I saw an hon. member of this House request you for a copy of the Bill which you had in your hands, which was the same Bill that I handed to you, which you passed to the Clerk, and which the Clerk returned to you afterwards. That hon. member may now have in his possession, and may have inadvertently omitted to return to you or to the Clerk the original which I presented to you, which you passed to the Clerk, and which the Clerk afterwards returned to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I remember very well I gave a French copy of the same Bill to two hon. gentlemen of this House.

MR. HOLTON: If the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Colby) presented a Bill to this House printed with his own name, there could be no doubt whatever as to the legality of his proceedings, but there must be other copies of this Bill, and, in view of the misunderstanding and confusion which seems to have arisen, it would no doubt be very satisfactory if my hon. friend from Stanstead would favour us with another copy of his Bill of this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Clerk has just handed me the manuscript which was put into the hands of the Law Clerk, received Monday, February 16th, 1880, reading: "Mr. Colby, Act to repeal the Acts res-

pecting Insolvency now in force in the Dominion of Canada." This copy I am sure is not the copy I had in my hands yesterday. It would be easy to ascertain all about the matter if I had the French copy which I saw, because I handed the French copy to a member of this House.

MR. COLBY: I will say, in order to be more explicit, and that the House may see that I am not in error, in stating that it is not the Bill which I placed in your hands, that the Bill which I placed in your hands yesterday was a Bill which, before doing so, I referred to my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Girouard) for his revision, and he, in his own handwriting, noted what he conceived would be the proper addition of the Bill. That was before the presentation of the Bill, which was placed in your hands with my name on the back of it; and that is certainly not the Bill. The Clerk has, erroneously perhaps, had another copy which was used as a draft. I think you will recollect that, while the Bill was upon your desk, after it was sent to the Clerk, an hon. member of this House requested the privilege of taking the Bill, and that he took the Bill which should have been handed to the Clerk.

MR. SPEAKER: Here is the French copy exactly. I had two copies in my hand: an English version, and a French version, and here is the French version I handed to the hon. gentleman from Iberville (Mr. Béchard).

MR. GIROUARD: I recollect perfectly well that yesterday, when the hon. member for Stanstead, (Mr. Colby) showed me the Bill printed, as the seconder of the Bill, I made a little amendment in my own handwriting. Most assuredly the Bill, which was a few moments ago in the hands of the hon. member for Stanstead is not the one I saw yesterday.

MR. MACKENZIE: I would never have dreamed of doubting the statement of the hon. gentleman himself that he presented the Bill, but I was not aware of it. I asked the Clerk for the Bill which was presented after you stated that you saw it in French, and I got a copy of the Bill of the hon. member for Iberville (Mr. Béchard) of last year from the Clerk, and it was my duty in this instance to point out to the House that there had been some mistake about it, and that the hon. gentleman's Bill was not entitled to precedence.