

Hon. Mr. POWER—The point is this: as I understand, in 1886, there was no express recognition by law of the authoritative character of the French version of the revised statutes. They were translated, but there was nothing to show that they were translated under the authority of parliament or the government.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—That is the point.

Hon. Mr. POWER—And in order to remove any question on that point, the commissioners thought it was desirable that, in the present instance, there should be no question about that, and the French version is just put on the same footing as the English, and the clause cannot do any harm.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I think there cannot be any objection to that, but the point that is troubling some of us is that it is more than likely the French version will not be ready by the 1st January when this Bill will become law. As the consolidation does not change the law, is there any good reason why we should name the 1st January? Would the 1st July or the 1st of some other month not suit just as well, and there would be no doubt in the world that the French translation would be ready by that time?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would suggest that my hon. friend the Secretary of State should bring down an amendment permitting the government to take power to bring the Act into effect at any time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I gave my opinion just now. There are gentlemen in the government who think it can all be done before the 1st January, and there is no use in making a change. The subject has been thoroughly threshed out and discussed.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—We have no right to make a translation in one language only when the two languages are official. We have not the French copy.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman will see that in the Act of 1903 provision was made for the English version, and this provision is on all fours with the provision made in the Act of 1903. I fail to see how it can do any harm whatever, and it removes any doubt.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—That is not answering the objections at all. If in 1883 or 1885, or 1886 a wrong has been done, that is no reason why it should be repeated now.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The point is that it was not done then, and I have the authority of one of the best lawyers in the country for saying there is grave doubt whether the French version of the revised statutes was ever really in force.

Hon. Mr. KERR—I take it there is a little misunderstanding about the matter. Section 10 provides for a translation of the revised statutes into the French language—that is a translation of the revised statutes as adopted and declared to be law. Clause 10, which has already been quoted, provides that the Governor General shall cause a printed roll of that translation to be filed, etc. Clause 11 reads:

11. Copies of the said Revised Statutes, either in the English or French language, purporting to be printed by the King's Printer, shall be evidence of the said Revised Statutes and of their contents.

So that provision is made for a translation of the revised statutes. Provision is made for one copy to be filed in the roll, and provision is made for a copy of the revised statutes as prepared, purporting to be printed by the King's Printer, being evidence of the revised statutes. I think that that makes the matter complete, and is a proper thing in order to insure the French version being the authorized French version. Otherwise there being no such provision for an authorized version, the question would be open as to what was the true translation of the roll which was printed in both languages. Supposing there were no such provision, and a doubt arose with reference to the French version which had been printed, the question would be, is that a correct translation? But this precludes the possibility of that difficulty by declaring that the copy filed shall be the correct translation and correct version from the roll. The roll which is filed is one roll, and that one roll must necessarily be in one language; and therefore being so, what we want is to get an authorized version of that issue by the authority of parliament, and that is the object of this legislation. It will be borne in mind that until these revised statutes are adopted, there is no