

avoiding a judge with a reputation for severity. If they have elected to be tried by a jury within the limit of time mentioned there is no good reason why they should not be compelled to be tried by the form which they themselves have selected.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: The right of re-election is not, I think, perhaps exercised as a technical legal right, but it is practised in all the courts of Canada. A man elects to be tried by a jury; then he changes his mind and elects to be tried summarily. Under this he will not have the right to change his election later than a period forty days before the next sitting of the court. I do not know how that would be in the province of Quebec, but in the rest of Canada it would be a long time, because the assizes would be coming on. It would seem very much too long in Western Canada in any event.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: What would you suggest?

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I do not see any objection to the provision, but I would say four weeks would be abundant time.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Say thirty days.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, make it thirty days instead of forty.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: It is an economy to the country if he elects to be tried summarily instead of by a jury.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: How about changing the word "forty" in line fifteen to the word "thirty," and changing the word "fifty" in line seventeen to the word "forty"?

The amendment was agreed to, and section 14 as amended was agreed to.

Section 15 was agreed to.

On section 16—commencement of Act:

Hon. Mr. POWER: I would suggest to the minister that there is an objection to the form in which the date is fixed:

This Act shall come into operation ninety days after it has been assented to by the Governor General.

The average legal practitioner or magistrate throughout the country will not know when the ninety days are up. He will not know on what day the Governor General assented to this. I assume it will be assented to on the 7th of July. Then why not say "on the first day of October?"

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, or the 15th of October.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I move that all the words after the word "operation" be stricken out, and that the following words be substituted: "on the first day of October in the present year."

The amendment was agreed to.

The Bill, as amended, was reported.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I just wish to say a word or two before we finally part with this Bill. I do not suppose it is necessary for me to disclaim any sympathy with the Winnipeg revolutionaries at all, but I have this feeling. It is said that hard cases make bad laws, and the unfortunate occurrences in Winnipeg and elsewhere throughout the country have naturally caused people to some extent to lose their heads, and measures which may be very appropriately passed to deal with these revolutionaries are perhaps liable to make trouble for decent, honest, loyal people at some later date; that is all. I think we ought to be very careful that we do not pass some legislation which will interfere with the reasonable rights and liberties of our people.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

#### OTTAWA IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION BILL

##### SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of Bill 165, an Act to consolidate and amend the Acts respecting the Ottawa Improvement Commission.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, this Bill in a sense consolidates the Acts respecting the Ottawa Improvement Commission, and makes provision and gives authority for an additional amount to be paid by the Government to the Improvement Commission of Ottawa for the carrying out of the Ottawa improvement works with which we are all familiar.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: It may be proper here to make an inquiry of the Government. The Government have, I understand, put up a large building on the corner of O'Connor and Albert streets, leaving out of consideration altogether the large property which the Government bought some years ago and which extends from the Supreme Court down along Wellington street very nearly to the bridge. I understood that the arrangement made between the city and the Government was that the part of the town