

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga). I have enquired into the qualifications of Mr. Desjardins since objection was raised by the hon. member for Quebec (Mr. Langelier), and from the testimonies I have received I have no doubt that he is well qualified.

Mr. LANGEЛИER. From whom did you receive the testimonies?

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga). From several members of the Local Legislature who have seen him at work. Since that time he has been practising stenography, and from all the information I can gather he is well qualified. I do not know how to take any better means of judging his fitness.

Mr. LANGEЛИER. How many words a minute can he write?

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga). I know he can write fast enough to perform the work satisfactorily.

Mr. LAURIER. It would have been a very simple matter to test him before the committee.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga). I think the testimonies we received from those who have seen him at work, are worth as much as that of the member for Quebec West who knows nothing about Mr. Desjardins's qualifications except from hearsay.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. (Translation.) There would be a very easy way of settling this question. Personally I have not the slightest objection to Mr. Desjardins; but, as well as the hon. member for Quebec Centre (Mr. Langelier) I also have gone down to Quebec since the report was presented to the House, and have heard several people speak of Mr. Desjardins. Quebec lawyers and stenographers told me that he could not take down one hundred words a minute. Now, if he does not write one hundred words a minute he is hardly capable of taking down evidence in a court of justice, much less is he able to take down the debates in this House. As I said in the beginning, I have no objection to his appointment, but I think a way of solving the difficulty would be to submit him to an examination. If he should not prove competent let him not be appointed; if he be so, then appoint him. As to what the hon. member for St. Maurice (Mr. Desaulniers) said of the French Debates, he is perfectly right. I am ready to vote for the complete abolition of the *Hansard* in both languages.

Mr. DESAULNIERS. (Translation.) I have a personal knowledge of Mr. Desjardins's competency, and during the nine years that I have been a member of the Quebec Legislature, I know that this gentleman took down all the speeches verbatim. As to my other remarks concerning the French translators of the Debates, I would not say that they are unable to fulfil the duties of their position, for I know some of them who are excellent translators; but I maintain that several of them, among others, the chief, Mr. Beaulieu, have a task beyond their strength, and surely this is not justice.

Motion agreed to on division.

INLAND REVENUE ACT AMENDMENTS.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 71) further to amend the Inland Revenue Act. He said: The first section of this Act amends section 7 of the present Act. The present Act is applicable to all parts of the Dominion except the North-West Territories and the District of Keewatin.

We propose to change that, and the amended law will be applicable to all parts of Canada except Keewatin, the North-West Territories coming under the provision of the license system.

Mr. LAURIER. What part of the Act?

Mr. COSTIGAN. The whole Act. There is a proviso as follows:—

"Provided further, that the Minister of Inland Revenue may, where for any reason he deems it in the public interest to do so, refuse to issue any license authorized by this Act."

The present Act provides that all parties applying for a license, who have complied with the rules laid down, can insist upon getting a license. It was thought in the interest of the revenue that the Minister should have power to refuse a license,—for instance, when the applicant had already forfeited a license for violating the law. Then there is a change in section 5 of the Act of 1891, with regard to the bottling of spirits. That Act restricts the bottler as to what he may put upon the bottle. We find it necessary to go further and to make it obligatory that he shall put upon the bottle the name and address of the bottler. The other change is with respect to section 274 of the Inland Revenue Act, regarding the manufacture of cigars. As the law now stands cigars may be manufactured in packages of three or six or upwards. It is proposed to change the law in this respect, and declare that while cigars may be put up in packages of three or six or more, they shall not be sold from the factory in lots of less than 100. The reason for this change is that the extension of the privilege under the present law has enabled manufacturers to do a retail business. These are all the changes in the Bill.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

Mr. FOSTER presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

STANLEY OF PRESTON.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, a copy of a despatch which he has received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to an Address to Her Majesty praying that Her Majesty would take such steps as might be necessary to denounce and terminate the provisions contained in the most-favoured-nation clauses of the Treaties with the German Zollverein and the Kingdom of Belgium.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

OTTAWA, 21st April, 1892.

(Copy.)

Canada—General.

Lord Knutsford to Lord Stanley of Preston.

DOWNING STREET, 2nd April, 1892.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have given very careful consideration to your despatch, No. 276, of the 22nd October, 1891, in which you transmitted an Address to Her Majesty from the Senate and House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, praying that Her Majesty would take such steps as might be necessary to denounce and terminate the provisions referred to (in the Address) in the Treaties with the German Zollverein and the Kingdom of Belgium.

2. I duly laid the Address before Her Majesty, who was pleased to receive it very graciously, and to command that it should be referred to the Departments of Her Majesty's Government which are concerned with the subject-matter. This has been done, and it is now my duty to communicate to you the following reply:—

3. The two clauses referred to are Article XV in the Anglo-Belgium Treaty, and Article VII in the Anglo-Zollverein Treaty, and the undoubted effect of these two