

is dead before the body is taken by the undertaker and embalmed. We know very well that there are instances—and they are comparatively common—where the appearances of death are present but where life is really not extinct. This bill merely provides that a certain length of time shall elapse between the declaration of death and the process of embalming. I suppose we can discuss the matter further when the bill comes up for consideration.

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Before the motion is put I should like to direct the attention of the Minister of Justice to the question of whether or not the bill is *intra vires* of this parliament, having regard to the decision of the privy council in the reciprocal insurance case. I doubt very much whether that is so, having regard to that decision.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): The question will be considered.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time, on division.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE ACT

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 7, to amend the Marriage and Divorce Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. BOURASSA: This is a very simple matter; it simply has the effect of restoring the marriage act as it was previous to 1925 by striking out those clauses which acknowledge divorce as well as by amending the title and the first clause of the bill which mention divorce. The bill declares also that this change will not affect pending cases or the validity of decrees or judicial decisions which have been rendered since 1925.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

PENITENTIARY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Toronto Northwest) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 8, to amend the Penitentiary Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. CHURCH: This bill is to empower the grand jury to visit these institutions and make a presentment, without expense to the country. At the present time grand juries are not permitted to do this, and inasmuch as these institutions are managed by the crown it is believed that in the public interest

the grand jury should be allowed to inspect all such institutions under the control of the department of the Secretary of State.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 9, to amend the Companies Act.

He said: This bill proposes a number of improvements in general methods as regards companies in order to afford greater security to the investor. With a few minor alterations it is substantially the bill introduced last year in the Senate, amended by a Senate committee, and reported to this house too late for consideration.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

TIMBER MARKING ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 10, to amend the Timber Marking Act.

He said: The purpose of the bill is merely to make provision for the removal from the register, by giving authority to the exchequer court to order such, of timber marks that are no longer used.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 11, to amend the Supreme Court Act.

Mr. CAHAN: Explain.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The purpose of this bill is to amend section 37 of the Supreme Court Act. That section as amended in 1920 defines the conditions under which special leave may be granted to appeal from a provincial court, other than the court of highest resort in the province. Two conditions are mentioned in the section as it is, but there has been a difference of opinion as to whether the two conditions must exist or whether they are only alternative. This bill is for the purpose of removing any doubt as to that and to provide that the two conditions must exist.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA GRAIN ACT

Hon. JAMES MALCOLM (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved for leave to