

extent, I am favorably impressed with the idea, and I am sorry that I cannot vote for the Bill, not for the reasons assigned by our hon. leader, although I regret, in this case, that I am not in harmony with him, but because, first, of the fact that the Bill is, in my estimation, uncalled for. There have been no petitions to either House, or not a sufficient number to justify us in passing such a Bill.

HON. MR. McMILLAN—Has there been any petition?

HON. MR. KAULBACH—There have been no petitions.

HON. MR. POIRIER—The hon. gentleman from British Columbia read something in Gaelic—I do not know what it was. In the second place, I believe that if such a measure is to be passed it must be introduced by the Government, and not by any individual member, however prominent he may be. As to the principle of the Bill, a great deal has been said in favor of it, and a great deal could still be said. I am myself greatly in sympathy with the idea of doing anything to extend the use of the Gaelic language. I was surprised at the conclusion of the hon. gentleman's remarks when he told us that the object of this Bill was not to extend the knowledge of Gaelic, because it was disappearing anyway. If it is disappearing it is a matter of sentiment, and as such I do not believe it is worth while for us to inaugurate this legislation. If it were a matter of practice, I would be in harmony with it and would favor the Bill. With respect to the proceedings of this House, I think it would be perfectly useless to print them in Gaelic; and as it is already the right of any member to use that language in debate, and the hon. gentleman has himself used it in his speech to-day, there is no necessity to legislate for its use in Parliament. But, as a matter of fact, it is not used. We all acknowledge that the printing of our reports here in Gaelic will not be of any service to the public. If there is any considerable number of people in the country who use the Gaelic language I think it would be only right to have the laws printed in that language. But I cannot support the Bill as it stands. There are some sentiments expressed by my hon. friend to which I

must take exception. He said, in making his comparison, that the same courtesy should be extended to the Gaelic that is shown to the French. The comparison in this case is not, in my estimation, a good one. French is used here, not by courtesy, but because the right exists under the constitution. It is a matter of privilege granted by the treaties with France and incorporated in our constitution. It would be a matter of courtesy to permit the use of Gaelic or any other language that is not now official. Further, I cannot agree with the hon. gentleman when he says that Gaelic, though taught in universities, is fading away in the same way that French is. I should be sorry if it were the case with Gaelic; I hope it is not, but I can assure my hon. friend that it is not the case with French. The use of the French language continues, not through any aggressiveness on the part of our people, but through a patriotic and conservative spirit. There is a difference, as my hon. friend from Delanaudière has pointed out, between a language that is not spoken officially anywhere in the world and a language that is spoken officially in one of the most glorious and powerful among the nations of Europe, and whose extension is world wide. We French in Canada feel that we are English by our laws and constitution; and that, being backed by France, and having discovered, settled and evangelized this land, we have as better cause to be attached to our language than another nationality would have; and that we are justified in our attachment, inasmuch as it is based upon history and backed by our motherland, where that language is still officially used. Therefore, the comparisons made by my hon. friend are not applicable to this case, in my estimation. Without making any further remarks, I may say that I cannot vote for this Bill as it stands, because I see no necessity for the printing of our deliberations in the Gaelic language.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—My excuse for rising to address the House upon this occasion is that I have lived for some forty-four years in a settlement largely composed of families whose original tongue was Gaelic. At an early period the heads of the houses, for the most part, were Scotchmen born in the old country, some of them, perhaps, in the islands of Scot-