

June 11, 1872

Mr. MASSON (Terrebonne) regretted that this important bill should have been delayed till this late hour of the session. He hoped the House would unite in appealing to the Government to withdraw it.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said there was nothing in the bill which could do injustice to either employers or employees. Its object was to repeal a harsh Act, under which mechanics could be indicted for every association they might form. The amendment had been adopted in the British Parliament without a dissenting voice, because it was felt that the old law was too oppressive to be endorsed by free men. Recent events in Toronto had shown the necessity of adopting some amendment here.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he saw no reason for the objections urged by the member for Terrebonne (Mr. Masson). He (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had only one objection to it, that it placed restrictions on workingmen, requiring them to register their Unions. He could not see the necessity for that clause.

After further discussion the motion for the second reading was carried on a division. The bill was passed through Committee of the Whole. On motion for third reading,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE suggested that the clause relating to the representation of Trades' Unions was beyond the jurisdiction of this House. It was a matter for the Local Legislatures and not for this Parliament to deal with.

Mr. MASSON (Terrebonne) renewed his request that the bill be withdrawn for this session.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said it could not be done without injury to the Dominion, for if workingmen should learn that the old law remained unchanged, they would not come to settle in Canada.

After further discussion the bill was read a third time and passed.

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THE CRIMINAL LAW

The Act to amend the Criminal Law relating to violence, threats and molestation, was read a second and third time and passed.

The House adjourned at 12:45 a.m.