

Sir J. A. Macdonald thought the honourable gentleman introducing the measure ought to look into it carefully. It appeared to be a Bill affecting trade, and if such, ought to originate in resolution.

Hon. Mr. Holton thought the suggestion a good one.

Mr. Mackenzie said that it either was a measure affecting trade, and one that ought to originate in resolution, or else it was a Local Bill, which ought not to be brought into that House.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin said that a Bill like this had been before the Quebec Legislature, and had been withdrawn on account of two objections:—1st. a doubt as to the jurisdiction; 2nd. strong opposition to the provisions of the Bill. If, in the present instance, the Bill came within the jurisdiction of the House clearly, it was one of the Acts which had to originate in resolution.

The motion was carried.

The House rose at 6 o'clock.

After the recess,

CASE OF THE PROPELLER "GEORGIAN"

Mr. Morrison presented the petition of G. T. Denison, of Toronto, praying an investigation into the circumstances attending the seizure of the propeller "Georgian" by the Government in 1855.

The petition was received, and a special Committee appointed to inquire into the case, with power to send for persons and papers.

RICHELIEU AND PASUMSIC R.N.C.

Mr. Chamberlin introduced a Bill to incorporate the Richelieu and Pasumsic Railway and Navigation Co.

Mr. Workman introduced the Bill from the Senate for the relief of F. J. Whiteaves.

On the motion for its reference to a Select Committee,

Hon. Mr. Holton said he did not see why this matter of divorce had not been so arranged under Confederation that it could be dealt with by the Local Legislature. As to the Bill before the House, they were empowered to deal with it by the constitution, but he maintained that this question of divorce ought to be dealt with judicially and not by the Legislature. Until that could be done he would vote against all private Bills such as that before the House.

Mr. Mackenzie was surprised that the member for Chateauguay should declare his opposition to this the only remedy which the asking for the Bill could obtain under the law. This was the only Court in the land to relieve persons such as this man Whiteaves. Undoubtedly these Bills ought not to be encouraged except in extreme cases, but believing this to be one, he (Mr. Mackenzie) would vote for the reference.

Mr. Bellerose said that in this matter honourable gentlemen should vote according to their conscience. He would vote against the measure, believing divorce to be an unchristian practice.

Hon. Mr. Langevin took a similar view.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau—On grounds altogether independent of religious belief entertained the strongest aversion to interfering with the marriage tie, and would vote against the reference.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin would have no difficulty in voting for the Bill, if a case were made out, and in the meantime would not oppose the reference.

Hon. Mr. Anglin held that no human tribunal, civil or ecclesiastical, had a right to dissolve the marriage tie. No Act even of a Council of the Roman Catholic Church, or the Pope of the Church, had that power. Believing this, he (Mr. Anglin) would oppose this Bill or any Bill for the establishment of a Court of Divorce. In matters of this kind, Roman Catholics hold themselves absolutely bound by the decisions of their Church; and those decisions taught that mankind had no power to separate those whom God had joined together. No action of that House could sever the marriage rite. They might, by the action of the Legislature, legalize adultery; but that was all they could do. He would therefore move that the Bill be not now referred to Committee, but be referred that day three months.

Hon. Mr. Johnson objected to special legislation such as this.

Hon. Mr. Anglin then said he would withdraw his amendment, as since putting it, he had ascertained that a vote on the original motion would answer the purpose as well.

The House then divided on the original motion, which was carried. Yeas, 78; Nays, 57.

Yeas—Messrs. Ault, Blake, Bodwell, Bolton, Bowell, Bowman, Bown, Brown, Burpee, Caldwell, Cameron (Huron), Chamberlin, Colby, Connell, Crawford (Leeds), Currier, Dobbie, Drew, Dunkin, Ferris, Gibbs, Grover, Hagar, Heath, Howland, Hurdon, Jackson, Jones (Halifax), Jones (Leeds and Grenville), Kempt, Kirkpatrick, Lapum, Lawson, McDonald (Glengarry), Macdonald (Sir J.A.), McDonald (Middlesex), Mackenzie, Magill, McConkey, McDougall, McLellan, McMonies, Merritt, Mills, Morris, Morison (Victoria), Morrison (Niagara), Munro, O'Connor, Oliver, Parker, Ray, Read, Redford, Rose, Ross (Dundas), Ross (P.E.), Ross (Victoria, N.B.), Ryan, Shanly, Snider, Sproat, Stephenson, Stirton, Thompson (Haldimand), Thompson (Ontario), Wallace, Webb, Wells, White, Whitehead, Wilson, Wood, Workman, Young—78.

Nays—Messrs. Anglin, Archambeault, Beaubien, Bechard, Bellerose, Benoit, Bertrand, Blanchet, Bourassa, Cameron (Inverness), Caron, Cartier, Casault, Cayley, Chauveau, Cheval, Costigan, Coupal, Crawford (Brockville), DeNiverville, Desaulnier, Dorion, Dufresne, Fortier, Fortin, Gaucher, Gaudet, Geoffrion, Gendron, Godin, Holton, Huot, Johnson, Kierzkowski, Langevin, Langlois, McDonald (Antigonish), Masson (Soulanges), Masson (Terrebonne), McCarthy, McGreevy, McKeagney, McMillan, Paquet, Perry, Pinsonneault, Pope, Pouliot, Power, Pozer, Renaud, Ross (Champlain), Ryan (Montreal), Senecal, Simard, Sylvain, Tremblay—57.

THE RATE OF INTEREST

Mr. Godin moved the second reading of the Bill to limit the rate of interest in the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Rose alluded to the great diversity of opinion prevailing with reference to this question, and asked the honourable gentleman to consent to the adjournment of the debate in the assurance that the Government were going to introduce a Bill on the subject on Friday next.

Mr. Godin agreed to the suggestion of the Finance Minister.

Hon. Mr. Rose then moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Masson (Soulanges) hoped the honourable member in charge of the measure would not continue to consent to the adjournment of

the debate. The Government knew very well honourable gentlemen on this side were their friends and supported them in their good measures, and sometimes their bad ones also, (laughter); and he asked the Government to allow the House to deal with this question at once.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin said that on every previous occasion when this motion was before the House, the Government refused to take it up, and he was glad the Government were now at last going to move in the matter. The law of Canada on this subject was disagreeably inconsistent, ambiguous, and altogether such as had long been a standing reproach to the country.

Hon. Mr. Johnson advocated free trade in money as in other articles, and maintained that it was folly and worse to restrict the rate of interest. (Kicking of desks and other noises here interrupted the honourable gentleman.) He would say there was a great deal more in some honourable gentlemen's desks than in their heads. (Laughter).

The debate was adjourned.

THE CROWN AND GOVERNMENT

On motion of **Sir John A. Macdonald**, the House went again into Committee on the Bill for the better security of the Crown and Government—**Mr. Cameron (Huron)** in the Chair.

The Bill was reported, and ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

OFFENCES RELATING TO COINAGE

Sir John A. Macdonald moved the second reading of the Bill respecting offences relating to the coin. He said with reference to this and a number of Bills relating to the criminal law, that he would ask the House in a great measure to accept them on trust. They had been prepared with a great deal of care. He had also examined them carefully himself, they would be open to amendment in Committee; and in the Upper House, where he had asked the Postmaster-General to take charge of them, they would also be subjected to careful scrutiny.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to Committee of the Whole—**Mr. Cameron (Huron)** in the Chair.

The Committee reported the Bill, and it was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.