

age, but he for one did not believe in the other causes alluded to in the newspaper reports. He spoke with knowledge of his own section of the Province of Quebec, where he resided. Progress was then reported and leave asked to sit again.

ALIEN LAWS AMENDMENT.

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Campbell**, the House went into Committee of the Whole (**Hon. Mr. Bureau** in the chair), on the above Bill.

Hon. Mr. Campbell said that observations had been made both in and out of the House that we had not power to legislate upon the subject. The Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick up to this time have objected to the passage of a law of this description, the people of that Province not being satisfied that it was for their interest to allow aliens to hold and transmit land. If we have the power, it is a matter for consideration how far we should force that legislation upon them, which they have upon several occasions pronounced against. Under these circumstances he had thought best to give way upon this point, and would make such changes in the bill as related to aliens holding and transmitting land. In reference to all the Provinces in the Dominion, except New Brunswick, the state of aliens would remain as at present. In New Brunswick they will retain the law they have thought most conducive to their interests. **Hon. gentlemen** would of course differ as to the wisdom of the course pursued in New Brunswick in regard to bringing in persons who would not otherwise come and spend their money in enterprises in that Province. Whether they are right or not they have pronounced against the principle of this bill on several occasions, therefore he had omitted from the bill all that part which related to aliens; as the bill now stood, it was simply a Bill regarding naturalization. We enact a Bill by which when a person becomes naturalized in one Province of the Dominion, he will have the same rights in all the Provinces of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot approved of naturalization laws which allowed foreigners on coming into the country to become naturalized, but he did

not approve of allowing them to hold property while they continued to be aliens.

Hon. Mr. McCrea thought the object they should have in view was to facilitate the naturalization of aliens. He believed the law they had in Upper Canada, in reference to this subject was a very judicious one.

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Campbell** the Bill was ordered to be printed and taken into consideration on Friday next.

The consideration of the 5th report of the Select Committee on Contingent Accounts.

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Seymour** the consideration of the report was deferred until Thursday next.

DIVORCE BILL.

Mr. Whiteaves, Bill for a divorce (from **Julia Wolf**) was then introduced by the **Hon. Mr. Ferrier**, and on motion of **Hon. Mr. Ritchie** it was ordered to be read on the 15th day of April next.

Hon. Mr. Campbell said under their constitution they had no more powers and privileges than the House of Commons and as they had not the power to administer and examine witnesses under oath, it was necessary before proceeding with this case to have an Act of Parliament giving them the necessary powers.

Hon. Mr. McCully said since the previous Session of the House he had prosecuted two cases of divorce in Nova Scotia, although divorce cases were not common there. When the necessity for these cases did arise in Nova Scotia the process was very simple, the whole proceeding not occupying more than ten days. In the Dominion it was of much importance that they should have a court for marriage and divorce, instead of going back to the law which they had in England one hundred years ago and which was substantially a denial of justice.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie observed that there had not been more than four divorce cases in Canada in twenty-five years.

The motion was then carried and the House adjourned until to-morrow at three o'clock.