

conditions mentioned in that Act can be varied indefinitely, but the legislative jurisdiction cannot be varied at all, in my humble opinion. I have not the good fortune to have the support of the Minister of Justice in that view, but nevertheless it is my view. So far as the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Hudson Bay rights are concerned, I have already expressed the opinion that the sections which have been adopted probably do not go further than to give the provinces notice of the agreements into which we have entered, and as to which they are bound just as much as we are. I repeat that there is nothing in these agreements which takes away the legislative jurisdiction of this parliament. It would be a monstrous thing for us to legislate them out of existence, but we would have the legislative power to do so, and when we impose what are supposed to be restrictions on the provinces in that respect, in my opinion we are doing nothing more than giving them notice that these bargains have been made; and that the Crown is bound by them and that the legislatures of the province are not to deal with these matters except consistently with these contracts into which the Crown has so entered. Technically the bargain is between the Crown and these companies, but the Crown expects that the legislature will observe the contract.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It is a fact that there is a legislative restriction on their powers, and in effect it is the same thing. Now, Mr. Chairman, I must confess that I have grown old enough to be thoroughly convinced of the saying, that if speech is silver silence is golden. I must admit that my faith in that saying has been increased to some extent by what has occurred to-night. A great many things have been said to-night that might have been very well left unsaid. I did not intend to take any part in this debate, but I learned for the first time in my experience to-night that, with respect to this legislation, if we did not adopt this amendment we were going to abolish the French language in the Northwest Territories. It is undoubtedly a case of live and learn.

Mr. MONK. Did I say that?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No; my hon. friend would not be responsible for anything of that sort; nobody would imagine it possible he would be responsible. We were also told that we were taking away a constitutional right. I would like to know whether there is a lawyer in this House who has any regard for his reputation who would be responsible for such a statement as that. We are continuing all the conditions existing at the present time; we are perpetuating the rights, whatever they may be, in the Northwest Territories with respect to language, leaving it to the legislature to determine

hereafter to what extent these rights may be maintained. That is what we are doing; we are not taking away anything.

Amendment (Mr. Monk) negatived.

For the amendment, 6; against the amendment, 69.

Section 2 of the Bill agreed to.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. In view of the amendment to the Irrigation Act to be introduced by the Minister of the Interior, I move that section 20 be amended so as to read:

The Crown lands, mines and minerals and royalties incident thereto and the interest of the Crown in the Northwest Territories in the waters within the province under the Northwest Irrigation Act, &c.

Amendment agreed to.

Section, as amended, agreed to.

On section 24—commencement of the Act.

Mr. FITZPATRICK moved to strike out the word 'July' and substitute therefor the word 'October.'

Mr. LAKE. That would bring the elections into the middle of the winter, as I understand they must be held within six months from the 1st of October.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is suggested that it will be preferable to make the date the 1st of September instead of the 1st of October, and if it is agreeable, we will make that change.

Amendment agreed to, and section as amended agreed to.

On the preamble.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The only question that remains is the preamble, and I would suggest that the hon. member for Hamilton bring his proposed amendment to the preamble on the third reading.

Preamble agreed to on division.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would call the attention of the members from the Northwest Territories to a letter which was addressed to me some time ago from Lloydminster, in these terms:

We understand that it is intended to make the fourth meridian the divisional line between the proposed new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

While we believe that the fourth meridian is in many ways a suitable divisional line, we beg to point out, that it will be detrimental to the interests of this town and surrounding district to be so divided, as to be partly in one province and partly in the other.

As the site of Lloydminster occupies section 2, township 50, range 28, fractional section 3, township 50, range 28, west of the third meridian, and the northeast and the southeast quarters of section 1, township 50, range 1, west of the fourth meridian, the proposed line will cut the town in two. We beg to submit for your