

He wished to give the system a fair trial, and if it did not succeed, it could be altered.

Mr. BLANCHARD under the circumstances withdrew his motion.

Mr. LE VESCONTE moved the clause which he had read on a previous day as to the rights of minorities—which was lost—31 to 8.

*For.*—Miller, Bill, Le Vesconte, McDonnell, Tobin, McKinnon, Robichau, Caldwell—8.

*Against.*—John Campbell, Pryor, Moore, D. Fraser, McFarlane, C. J. Campbell, Blackwood, Hamilton, Allison, Laurence, Ray, Parker, McKay, Chipman, Kaulback, Hill, Longley, Donkin, Prov. Secy., Blanchard, S. Campbell, Annand, Balcom, Ross, Robertson, Shannon, Locke, Finl. Secy., Cowie, Archibald.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL moved that the bill be deferred to that day three months.

Mr. LE VESCONTE, although opposed to the bill, should vote against this motion, as it would be ten times worse to go back to the bill now on the statute book.

Mr. MILLER wished to remove a misapprehension upon that subject. It did not at all follow, that if they rejected this bill they must fall back upon the old law. A measure might be framed in consonance with the wishes and feelings of the people. The hon. gentleman commented upon the bill of last session at some length, and argued that by amendments it had been stripped of a great many of its obnoxious features, and was not at all the bill as originally introduced. Therefore it was not right for the hon. gentleman to say, that the house had only the option of accepting this bill, or being driven back to the obnoxious bill of last session. The hon. gentleman recapitulated the reasons why he should be compelled to vote against this bill upon its third reading.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. contended that the clauses relating to the city of Halifax, were totally inapplicable to thinly settled districts. The principle might be carried out in the more populous districts, where the different denominations had school houses of their own. The hon. gentleman referred to the fact that, in Nova Scotia, no distinction was made between any sect or creed, and he hoped that none would ever seek for any preference.

After some further slight discussion, the question was taken upon Mr. Stewart Campbell's motion—to defer the Bill for 3 months—which was lost, 20 to 8.

*For.*—Killam, Heffernan, Parker, Ray, Hatfield, Miller, S. Campbell, Balcom—8.

*Against.*—D. Fraser, Shannon, Atty. Genl., Donkin, Le Vesconte, Finl. Sec. Colin Campbell, Lawrence, J. Campbell, McKay, Allison, Moore, Whitman, Kaulback, Longley, Prov. Secy., Hill, McKinnon, Tobin, Cowie—20.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL gave notice to rescind.

Hon. PROV. SEC. expressed his astonishment that after having had a call of the house, he should persist in a notice to rescind.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL replied that he did so because not half of the house was present.

Hon. PROV. SEC. moved that the bill be read a third time and finally pass.

Some discussion then ensued upon a question of order, as to whether that motion could be put—pending the notice to rescind.

The Speaker took time to consider.

The House adjourned until the next day at o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, April 12.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. LEVESCONTE, chairman of the committee on fisheries, reported.

Mr. TOBIN would like to know whether the committee had considered a subject which had been brought to their notice by petitions from Margaret's Bay, relative to the practice of setting seines; and whether they had suggested any remedy for the grievance complained of.

Mr. LEVESCONTE said the committee had carefully considered the subject, but could not arrive at any definite conclusion. They found it impossible to devise a law applicable to the whole Province.

Mr. SHANNON enquired if any action had been taken as regards the trawl fishery.

Mr. LEVESCONTE said that there was not sufficient information before the committee to warrant them to interfere.

Mr. TOBIN alluded to the want of attention this important branch of industry received from the house. He saw a number of gentlemen around the benches who should take an interest in the subject; and yet here was a report brought in by a committee after two months deliberation, and scarcely a remark was elicited from them. The hon. gentleman alluded to the abolition of the office of Fish Inspector, which he thought had rather depreciated the character of our fish in foreign markets. He thought that something might be done to improve the breed of fish. In France they imported spawn for this purpose, and he did not see why caplin could not be made to breed upon our shores, so as to improve the character of fish used for bait.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL thought that the hon. member for Halifax instead of lecturing the committee ought to have addressed his remarks to another quarter. He should like to know why the government ignored their duties in connection with the preservation of the fisheries any more than in relation to agriculture or any other branch of industry. He thought that there was a particular reason why the remarks of Mr. Tobin upon the improvement of bait should have been made to the government, for if there was a body of gentlemen who understood the use of bait, it was the Executive of Nova Scotia. (Laughter.) And as they had taken charge of all the schools of the province, perhaps it would be just as well if they also assumed the protection of schools of fish. This subject of the trawl fishery should engage the earnest attention of the government, as if something was not done very soon, the valuable cod fishery of our coast would be completely destroyed.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that no doubt this subject was a most important one, and deserving the serious attention of the house and the government, but he thought that if hon. gentlemen who represented fishing interests instead of making it a subject of attack upon the government of the day would devote a little attention to the subject themselves, it would look more like a desire to benefit that branch of provincial industry. He had sat there eight years, and although the member for Guysborough represented a constituency largely engaged in the fishing business, he never heard him open his mouth to give advice upon the subject.

He thought that if the constituencies of those fishing counties, instead of selecting gentlemen of the legal profession as their representatives,