cannot help feeling that there is a slur upon their character; they are made to feel sometimes that there is a slur upon their name, and because there is a slur upon their name, which they have not brought about, that has really the effect of a slur upon their character. I really think that if we pass this Bill its effect will be better than the effect of the present law, because those who are innocent in the matter will be relieved from penalties which are now imposed upon them. For my part I intend to support the Bill. At the same time I thought that I should say what I have said, because I do not wish it to be supposed that I go blindfold into the matter, and support the Bill because it is a good one without seeing what its effects are likely to be. As to the suggestion made by the Hon. Mr. Barlow, I cannot agree with him that the Bill should not be retrospective, because if we acknowledge that it is right that children who are born out of marriage in the future should be legitimised, I do not see why children who have been born out of marriage in the past should not also be legitimised. Of course the hon. gentleman has in view the idea that legitimate children may suffer by such a procedure, but I do not see why one child born out of wedlock and another born in wedlock should be treated differently, when we come to deal with property belonging to the parents.

Hon. A. H. Barlow: They have a vested right.

Hon. A. Norton: One has a vested right, and the other has a vested wrong, and the sooner we remedy the vested wrong the better. I shall very gladly support the Bill.

Hon. J. T. Smith: I very much approve of the action which has been taken by the Hon. Mr. Macpherson in bringing this Bill before the House, and I think he deserves every credit for the best intentions. I regret to have to oppose him, but I feel sure that a great deal of harm would be done under this Bill.

A. H. Barlow: You have a vested right.

Hon. E. J. Stevens: That argument will be more often used in the future. It will be used by anyone who wants to seduce a young girl. I freely admit that it is a very hard case for those who are unfortunate enough to be illegitimate, but I think the evil that would accrue would be very much greater if this Bill became law. I give credit to the hon. gentleman who introduced the Bill for the best intentions, I believe he is thoroughly sincere in his belief and statements, I do not differ. I am a learnt man, and probably many instances of hardship have come under his notice that have led him to introduce the measure. I regret to have to oppose him, but I feel sure that a great deal of harm would be done under this Bill.

Question-That the Bill be now read a second time—put; and the Committee divided:


Not-Corresponding. 4.


CRIMINAL CODE BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: I beg to move that this Order of the Day stand an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. I may say that as to-day was proclaimed a holiday, and as the proclamation has been rescinded, a little confusion has been caused. I am moved, gentlemen, that, under the circumstances, the Bill would not be taken until next Tuesday. I do not think that as to very great harm, because it will give hon. gentlemen some further time to consider it.

Question put and passed.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION AND RESTRICTION OF THE SALE OF OPium BILL.

Resolution of Committee.

Question stated—That after clause 9, the following new clause be added—

Section fourteen of the principal Act is amended by the omission of the words "or suffer or permits an aboriginal or a female half-caste to be in or upon any house or premises in his occupation or under his control."

Hon. J. Webber said there had evidently been some mistake, because he knew nothing about the printed amendment which had been handed round. The amendment read out by the Chairman was the amendment he wished to be introduced into the Bill, but it had not been circulated, and he wished to make a short explanation in this connection. Clause 14 of the original Act reads—

Any person who, except under the provisions of any Act or regulations thereunder, is in the habit of employing an aboriginal or a female half-caste, otherwise