

Supplementary Order Paper.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 25th Day of October, 1921.

LAW OF LIBEL FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Hon. SIR FRANCIS BELL, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

Clause 2, subclause (1).—Paragraph (a), line 13: To omit the words “and accurate.” Paragraph (b), line 15: To omit the words “or an extract from”; and to insert, before the word “abstract,” the words “a fair.” Paragraph (c), line 18: To insert, before the words “any notice,” the words “a copy of or a fair abstract of.” Paragraph (d): Line 22, to omit the words “and accurate”; line 27, to omit the words “in the case of proceedings the publication of which has been prohibited,” and insert in lieu thereof the words “the matter published is in breach of any prohibition.” Paragraph (e): Line 30, to omit the words “and accurate”; line 32, to omit the word “true”; line 33, to omit the words “and accurate extract from or.” Paragraphs (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j): To omit from each paragraph the words “and accurate.”

Clause 2, subclause 2: To omit the subclause, and substitute the following:—

(2.) In the case of a publication in any newspaper of any such report or abstract the protection intended to be afforded by this section shall not be available in any civil or criminal proceedings if it is proved that the defendant has been requested by the person defamed to publish in that newspaper a reasonable letter or statement by way of contradiction or explanation of the defamatory matter, and has, without reasonable justification, refused or neglected to publish the same within a reasonable time.

Clause 2: To add the following new subclause:—

(N.B.—See subsection (3) of section 157 of the Crimes Act, 1908.)

(2A.) It is a question of law whether the matter published relates to matters of public concern; and in the case of the report in a newspaper of the proceedings of a public meeting it is a question of law whether the meeting was lawfully held for a lawful purpose and for the furtherance and discussion of a matter or matters of public concern.
