

would be effectual for the purpose in view. Gentlemen of the legal profession understood that when a written document is desired in court the original must be produced, unless evidence could be produced of its loss or that it could not be found after search duly made for it in its proper place of custody. He recollected himself being obliged to go to considerable trouble and difficulty in order to produce a telegraph message in court. By a telegraph message was understood the message as taken to the office for transmission or the original message in cipher. The same diffi-

culty was felt in regard to other documents. In investigations of long correspondence and in long suits, notice to produce papers was often not given in full time, and in that way a difficulty of proof often arose; and so in regard to documents like Bills of Lading, the originals of which were sent to one person and the copies to others. He believed his Bill would have a strong tendency towards removing the present inconvenience.

Mr. CAMERON thought that probably this Bill was in the right direction as regarded telegraph messages, though with respect to the other documents he was of opinion that some question might exist.

Mr. PRINCE thought the Bill a good one, and remarked that this and some other Bills now before the House might fittingly have gone before the Judicial Committee, which had been proposed by the member for North York.

After some discussion as to the advisability or otherwise of sending the Bill to the Committee on Mr. Rykert's Bill respecting the law of evidence, it was read a second time and ordered for the Committee of the Whole on Friday.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he found upon the order paper a number of Bills introduced by the Government which they did not seem disposed to take up and pass, and the House was now adjourning at 9 o'clock. The important measures of the session were not yet in their hands, and they would have the time of the House that ought to be devoted to more serious subjects taken up with the consideration of those Bills which ought to be pressed forward now. He regretted that the hon. gentlemen were not ready to proceed with the business of the country.

Mr. LAUDER also complained that the Government measures were not in a more advanced stage. The country would hold the hon. gentlemen responsible for this delay in the public business. We had yet no word with respect to the Agricultural College, although a decision upon that subject was promised early in the session.

Attorney-General MOWAT said they had not been so very long in session as to give any ground for the complaint that hon. gentlemen had made. If hon. gentlemen would compare the number of important Bills brought down by the Government with the number brought down by any other Government at this period they would find the balance was largely in favour of the present Government. The Public Accounts had been referred to. Some of them had been in the printer's hands since December, and they were pressing them through the printing office as fast as possible. Most of the Government measures had been introduced. Reference had been made to the Municipal Loan Fund. That measure of itself involved an amount of labour which no other Government had undertaken. All parties admitted the enormous amount of labour it involved. It could not be disposed of in a day, or in a week. In addition to all the ordinary labours which a Government necessarily had, the present Government had that important question to mature. The chief part of the difficulty, almost the only difficulty, arose from the defaulting municipalities, and there was an absolute necessity to ascertain their exact position, to hear their statements and examine the evidence they submitted. The Government had done their best to bring this measure down early and to have the materials ready. He knew that they had lost no time. It would have been impossible for any Government, even one with twice their numbers and twice their energy, to have accomplished more than they had already done this session. It was the very nature of the measures that rendered it impossible to do more than they had done. And so far from deserving the taunt that had been cast upon them, they had accomplished more than might have been expected from the difficulties they had to encounter. The hon. member for South Grey had said that the country would hold them responsible. Well, they were glad to be responsible to the country. (Cheers) They were quite satisfied that the country would

say that they had done their duty hitherto, and when the session was over, that they had still done their duty. (Cheers)

Mr. RYKERT said that about this time last year they were told by the then Premier that he had a scheme well matured, and only required a short time to bring it into operation. The present Premier himself had stated to the electors of Oxford that the Municipal Loan Fund scheme had received his early attention. He should like to ask the hon. gentleman if he could not have got all the information he desired during the recess by addressing circulars to the different municipalities. He would like to know if the information the hon. gentleman was receiving now from deputations was of an adequate character. All that was done was to hear these deputations give their crude ideas upon the subject, then bow them out with the observation that their views would be placed on record. Why was not all that done during the summer?

THE SCOTT MURDER.

Mr. FERGUSON said that as there appeared to be no other business on hand, he would bring up his motion regarding the murder of Thomas Scott, though he had previously asked for it to stand over. The resolution asked for copies of all Orders in Council and all correspondence, telegraphic or otherwise, upon the subject, or in reference to the arresting or delivering to justice, of the murderer or murderers of the late Thomas Scott, of the Province of Manitoba, and in relation to the award of \$5,000 offered by the Government of Ontario during the past year for his or their apprehension. The speaker said that he had been in hope that some other gentleman would have felt the necessity, and conceived it his duty to introduce this subject; but the House had been sitting now nearly a month, and there had been no move made. He went on to refer to the circumstances connected with the murder of Scott, and expressed his surprise that, though a reward of \$5,000 had been offered for the apprehension of the murderers, no reference had been made to the matter in the speech of his Excellency at the opening of the House. He alleged that the Government and its friends had made capital politically out of the Scott murder at the elections in 1871, and said that there were members who owed their return to their taking advantage of the feeling of horror and indignation in the country at the time in regard to the brutal murder by rebels of a worthy and respected citizen of Canada, who, because of his loyalty to the Crown, was executed by Riel and his infamous associates. The honourable body of Orangemen, at their last grand meeting, decided to take the advice of counsel as to the Government which was responsible for the bringing of the murderers of Mr. Scott to justice, and the opinions taken were those of Mr. John Hilliard Cameron, Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, Mr. D'Alton McCarthy, and Mr. H. S. Macdonald. The opinion of these gentlemen was: 1st. That, from the time of Scott's murder up to the present time, there had been no power or authority in the Dominion or in any of the Provinces or elsewhere, except at Rupert's Land and the Province of Ontario, to put the law in motion or cause the arrest of the murderers, none of them having been since the murder in any of the other provinces of the Dominion except the Province of Manitoba. 2nd. That any of the murderers could have been arrested by the proper officials in Rupert's Land by proper information laid under the authority of the governing powers there, and there have been tried, or sent by the authorities there to the proper courts of Quebec or Ontario, which had concurrent jurisdiction for such trial. 3rd. That at the time the Government of Ontario offered the reward of \$5,000 for the murderers there was no power or authority existing in Ontario to cause the arrest out of Ontario, or the trial within Ontario, or the administration of substantial justice, as by the terms of the Act passed in 1871 all jurisdiction over every description of felony, including murder, committed in Manitoba, was vested in the courts of Manitoba alone. He contended that hon. gentlemen opposite were either very ignorant of the law or else they were leading the people of the country astray by hiding what they did know. It had been rumoured that an opportunity had been afforded to the Government of bringing Riel and Lepine to justice, but that they had not availed themselves of that opportunity.

Mr. PRINCE thought that nothing so much conduced to the defeat of the late Government as this Scott murder case. He was pleased to see one of the gentlemen who offered the strongest opposition to the present Government (now coming forward and calling so loudly for the punishment of the