

had been argued very ably and very learnedly that gentlemen holding the office of Privy Counsellors could not take a seat in the House. Whatever might be the weight that should be attached to these arguments he proposed to set the matter beyond doubt. He wanted to see Privy Counsellors sitting in this House for his part (laughter), for he thought they might assume that benefit was to be derived from their presence, and the abler they were the better whatever side of the House they belonged to. To-day they had one gentleman holding that office who had a seat on the Opposition side of the House, but perhaps it might happen that tomorrow they would have one on his (Mr. Mowat's) side. The Bill would declare that when a Privy Counsellor had no seat in the Senate or in the House of Commons, he was not disqualified to hold a seat in this Assembly, and that if anything of the kind had happened hitherto, no gentleman occupying that position should be liable to any penalties by reason of his seat in this House. (Cheers.)

The motion was carried and the Bill read the first time.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the Bill be read the second time on Monday.

Mr. CAMERON objected, as Monday was not a Government day.

Mr. MOWAT said the Speaker had previously held that such a motion was in order, though of course objection might be taken against the second reading when it came up, if it would interfere with the regular course of business for that day.

Mr. SPEAKER said the motion was, he believed, perfectly regular, but he would be inclined to sustain an objection taken when the second reading came up against its going on on a Private Bills day.

The motion was carried.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. MOWAT moved "That during the remainder of the session Government Orders be taken up after the other Orders on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays." He said that last session a motion to this effect had been carried on the 18th of November (the session having opened on the 12th), or in six days after the beginning of the session. The object was to facilitate the business of the House so long as this did not stand in the way of business in the hands of the private members. But when the Bills of private members were not sufficient to occupy the whole time, he thought both sides of the House would agree that it was right that Government business should be taken up when it was ready.

Mr. CAMERON said that while he was not disposed to offer unnecessary opposition to a motion of that kind, he did not think it at all desirable that Government business should be taken up late in the evening when members were weary and the House thin. The Private Bill business was likely to be very considerable, and he did not think hon. gentlemen opposite should ask any undue indulgence at the hands of the House.

The motion was carried.

#### RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adoption of the report of the Select Committee appointed to revise the rules of the House. He had had the advantage of the assistance of two hon. members on the opposite side in this revision of the rules, and he thought the changes which had been made would have the concurrence of the whole House. He might mention for the information of hon. members the changes which it was proposed to make in the rules. First, they had made a provision that in order to have the galleries cleared, it would require five members to make a request to that effect, instead of one. They had not in this House found any practical evil arising from the present rule since he had been a member, as he believed the galleries had never been cleared since that time. They all knew the unreasonable working of the rule in the English House of Commons, by which one member could have the galleries cleared, and they would agree that there was no case in which it was proper that the galleries should be cleared in which five members could not be found to ask for it.

Mr. CAMERON objected to the Attorney-General asking the concurrence of the House in the report before that report had been considered in Committee of the Whole House. They should have an opportunity of considering the clauses of the report seri-

atim.

Mr. MACDOUGALL thought it would be better to refer the report to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. MOWAT said that the Committee had been a special one, on which, at all the meetings except the last, there had been an equal number of members from both sides of the House. He thought that in that case it would not be necessary to submit the report to Committee of the Whole House.

After some discussion,

Mr. MOWAT said the course he was taking was the same as that taken by the hon. gentleman's Government on a similar occasion. It appeared by the journals of 1867-8 that the report of the Committee on the rules of the House was adopted. Out of 113 sections, there was probably not more than a tenth in which there was any alteration, and out of those in which there was any alteration, there were only two or four in regard to which there would be a difference of opinion. He did not think it would be convenient, unless the report were use absolutely required it, to go to Committee to discuss the question.

Mr. CAMERON said the rules adopted in 1867 were simply copied from the Dominion rules, and therefore created no discussion. He thought the proper course was to have the matter referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. CURRIE said that soon after the first Parliament of Ontario met, the rules of the House of Commons of Canada were adopted, but after that a Committee was appointed, and the Government allowed a private member to present the report, which was adopted with the Speaker in the chair. That Government of course could do no wrong (laughter); but now the hon. gentleman had objected to the present Government taking the same course as the Government of which he was a member had taken.

Mr. CAMERON said the former Government could do no wrong, but the present Government could do wrong. The changes proposed now had been already discussed.

Mr. SPEAKER said he could see no rule requiring that this matter should be considered in Committee, but he thought it would be a great convenience if it were referred to Committee, as the discussion would probably be of a conversational character.

Mr. MOWAT said that when the objection was raised he was going on to state what the changes really were. He had referred to the number of members who should have the right of clearing the House of strangers. The next rule referred to the order of business. The chief change in that was allowing Government business to be taken up after other business on the days when Government business had not precedence, except Mondays, when Government business was excluded. Of course the House could adjourn when it saw fit, notwithstanding this rule. The 20th rule gave third readings precedence, except of Government orders. The 23rd order merely put into the orders what the Speaker had already declared to be the rule. The 26th order provided that a motion under consideration at six o'clock on Wednesdays or Fridays should be proceeded with after recess, instead of the present rule which prevented the question being resumed at half-past seven. The 30th rule provided that on a motion for adjournment speeches should be limited to ten minutes. The 43rd order provided for the word "printed" in full being placed on the orders instead of the letter "P." The alterations proposed in the 44th order were thought desirable in order that members might know the important amendments which had been made in Committee. This was all the more desirable in this Legislature, where they had only one House, and if any slip occurred there was no chance of correcting it. The 51st rule was intended to shorten the period for proceeding with Private Bills. No advantage was gained by the public by the length of time which was now given to the promoters of Private Bills, who always took the full time. In Quebec they had gone further than was proposed here, having ordered that these Bills should be printed before the House met. It was now proposed to reduce the time for presenting petitions for Private Bills from three weeks to ten days; for introducing the Bills from four weeks to seventeen days, and for reporting on them from six weeks to thirty days. He had no doubt these changes would be found to work beneficially. The 53rd rule provided that applications for